

What is male circumcision?

Male circumcision is an operation to remove the skin at the top of the penis (foreskin). It is mostly done in babies and young children but can be done at any age.

It is an effective procedure and can give benefit for a range of medical conditions. Sometimes it is requested on cultural, social and religious reasons and is a common practice in the Jewish and Islamic faiths, and is also practiced by many African communities as a tribal or ethnic tradition. Note, female circumcision (FGM) has no medical benefits and is **ILLEGAL** under the Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003).

Patient eligibility criteria:

The patient's local NHS commissioning organisation will fund male circumcision if the patient meets the following medical circumstances:

- where the foreskin gets trapped under the tip of the penis (pathological phimosis)
- three documented episodes of inflammation of the head of the penis (balanoposthitis). This can lead to a condition where the foreskin is too tight to be pulled back over the head of the penis (glans)
- related indications for circumcision or other foreskin surgery include the following:
 - prevent infection of the body's drainage system for removing urine or pee (urinary tract) in patients with an abnormal urinary tract
 - when the foreskin can no longer be pulled over the tip of the penis (recurrent paraphimosis)
 - trauma (e.g. zipper injury)
 - tight foreskin causing pain on arousal/interfering with sexual function
 - abnormalities from birth.

The clinician in charge of the care of the patient's specific condition, usually a hospital doctor, can assist the application, if there is exceptional clinical need for the treatment to be funded. The patient's clinician must evidence clinical exceptionality and must be supported by the patient's local NHS commissioning organisation. See separate leaflet for more information on Individual Funding Requests (IFRs).

Advice and further guidance:



What to expect:

The patient will usually either have a **general anaesthetic**, which means the patient will be unconscious throughout the procedure, or a **local anaesthetic injection**, which will numb the penis and the surrounding area. In some cases, a **spinal anaesthetic** is used, where the patient will be unable to feel anything below the waist.

For more information search for 'circumcision' at www.nhs.uk

Treatment policy for patients covered by NHS Solihull, Birmingham CrossCity and Birmingham South Central Clinical Commissioning Groups.