

## Priorities Forum Statement

<b>Number</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Breast reconstruction after treatment for breast cancer</b>
<b>Date of decision</b>	<b>March 2017</b>
<b>Date refreshed</b>	<b>March 2017</b>
<b>Date of review</b>	<b>March 2020</b>

### GUIDANCE

Cosmetic/reconstructive surgery to reduce discomfort and improve appearance following initial cancer surgery will be funded if it involves a maximum of three procedures within two years of initial reconstructive surgery in order to adequately complete reconstruction. This may involve surgery to the contralateral side. This may be delayed at patient choice after initial breast cancer treatment, or if waiting list results in a delay.

The treatment plan should be documented at the start of treatment, and should not exceed a total of three operations. Any further surgery required beyond the original documented treatment plan for primary reconstruction; in excess of three initial procedures; or beyond two years after the first procedure will require approval from the Individual Funding Requests department of the relevant CCG.

All patients must be advised that further requests for surgery to address concerns about appearance, size, position, angle or balance will be considered to be cosmetic and as such will not be routinely funded, however exceptional cases will be considered by the Individual Funding Requests department.

Where there is a clinical need for implants to be replaced, this will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis through an Individual Funding Request.

#### **Background**

Breast reconstruction after treatment for breast cancer, in particular mastectomy, is a routinely funded procedure. Women currently are given the choice for immediate reconstruction – i.e. at the same time of the original surgery to remove the cancer, or to delay it until cancer treatment has been completed. Usually this can be completed in between one and three operations depending on the surgery required. There are a variety of different operations available for breast reconstruction.

This guidance recognises that women who have had surgery for breast cancer should be entitled to reconstructive surgery with the aim of replicating the appearance of the original breast as far as possible, rather than create the perfect replacement of the breast.

**Human Rights and Equalities Legislation has been considered in the development of this guidance.**