

## Priorities Forum Statement

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|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Number</b>           | <b>63</b>                        |
| <b>Subject</b>          | <b>Divarication of the Recti</b> |
| <b>Date of decision</b> | <b>June 2014</b>                 |
| <b>Date refreshed</b>   | <b>March 2017</b>                |
| <b>Date of review</b>   | <b>June 2018</b>                 |

### GUIDANCE

#### Definition

Divarication of the recti is a condition where the abdominal muscles become separated in the middle. The condition is relatively common and asymptomatic, although patients may be unhappy with the appearance of their abdomen, it does not lead to any complications that require intervention.

#### Recommendation:

Surgery to correct Divarication of Recti will only usually be approved where the following indications apply:

#### Either:

- The patient has a clinical need for reconstructive surgery following trauma

#### Or:

- The patient has a congenital Divarication of Recti

#### And:

- The Divarication of Recti is disabling and causes significant function impairment.

Significant functional impairment is defined as where it is affecting the patient's ability to carry out normal activities of daily living (this would need to be demonstrated and described).

Surgery to correct a Divarication of Recti is not routinely provided for cosmetic purposes alone.

Note: patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where the GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist.

#### Definition:

Divarication of recti describes the deviation of the two rectus abdominis muscles on either side of the midline from each other. The condition is relatively common and asymptomatic, although patients may be unhappy with the appearance of their abdomen.

Note: Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist.

**Human Rights and Equality Legislation has been considered in the formation of this guidance.**