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| <p><b>Name of treatment or procedure</b></p> <p>Haemorrhoidectomy – removal of piles</p>   |
| <p><b>Description of treatment or procedure</b></p> <p>This is the surgical removal of haemorrhoids - also known as ‘piles’, which are swollen blood vessels in and around the anus (bottom).</p>  |
| <p><b>Current policy</b></p> <p>Surgery is funded for all grades of haemorrhoids. Funding for surgery on grade one and two haemorrhoids will only be offered if the following treatments have been tried and failed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constipation treatment</li> <li>• Haemorrhoid creams</li> <li>• Stool softeners and laxatives</li> <li>• Rubber band ligation – a procedure where the haemorrhoid is tied off at its base with rubber bands cutting off its blood flow</li> <li>• Injections</li> <li>• Infra-red treatment.</li> </ul> <p>Removal of skin tags is not funded.</p> |
| <p><b>Proposed change(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding would not be offered for surgery on grade 1 and 2 haemorrhoids</li> <li>• Funding would only be offered for surgery on grade 3 and 4 haemorrhoids if the patient met certain criteria</li> </ul> <p>Removal of skin tags would not be funded (no change).</p>  |
| <p><b>Reason for proposed change(s)</b></p> <p>The criteria for this procedure is now more clear and based on the latest evidence available.</p>   |
| <p><b>Impact of proposed change(s)</b></p> <p>For patients who DO NOT meet the specified criteria, the Clinical Commissioning Group would <b>only</b> fund the treatment if an Individual Funding Request (IFR) application proved exceptional clinical need and that view was supported by the CCG.</p>   |

