



**Hertfordshire and
West Essex**
Integrated Care Board

NHS Herts and West Essex

Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Vasectomy

July 2022 V1.0

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Approved By	NHS Hertfordshire & West Essex Integrated Care Board.
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Responsible Director	Medical Director
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Description	Policy for local Evidence Based Interventions procedure
Superseded Documents (if applicable)	West Essex CCG – Vasectomy in secondary care Herts & BLMK Priorities Forum guidance - Vasectomy

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Document Control

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The policy should include a contents page, as set out below, and be structured around all of the headings shown (although not necessarily in the same order)

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Section		Page
1.	Content The key points of the policy should be written in a clear, concise manner, so as to be easily understood and correctly interpreted	4
2.	Background	4 & 5

Appendices:

Each appendix will be numbered to follow on from the policy document.

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Policy: Vasectomy

Vasectomy is an irreversible method of contraception. It is a surgical procedure to cut and seal off the two tubes (vas deferens) that carry sperm from the testicles to the penis, thus rendering the patient sterile. As this procedure is invasive it comes with associated health risks

In West Essex, vasectomies are routinely carried out in primary care by West Essex GPs with extended role interest (GPwER).

In Hertfordshire, vasectomies are routinely carried out by Community AQP Vasectomy Services.

Vasectomies will not normally be funded in secondary care unless there are exceptional clinical circumstances

Vasectomy in a Primary Care Setting should only be carried out in men who meet all the following criteria:

- The patient understands that the sterilisation procedure is permanent and irreversible and the reversal of sterilisation operation would not be routinely funded by the ICB, **AND**
- He is certain that his family is complete, **AND**
- He has sound mental capacity for making the decision as emotional instability or equivocal feelings about permanent sterilisation are contraindications to vasectomy, **AND**
- He has received counselling about the availability of alternative, long-term and highly effective contraceptive methods and these are either contra-indicated or unacceptable to the patient, **AND**
- He understands that sterilisation does not prevent or reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections, **AND**
- The procedure will be carried out in a primary or community care setting under a local anaesthetic (Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, 2014).

Exclusion criteria

- Anybody under the age of 18
- Cryptorchidism
- Lack of capacity to give informed consent
- A history of an allergy to local anaesthetic
- Those deemed unsuitable for local anaesthetic

Vasectomy procedure should be delayed if the following conditions are present:

- Scrotal skin infection
- Active sexually transmitted disease
- Balanitis

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- Epididymitis
- Orchitis

Vasectomy procedure should be undertaken with caution if the following are present:

- Previous scrotal surgery
- Hydrocele/ Varicocele
- Large spermatocele
- Inguinal hernia
- BMI>35
- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Extreme Scrotal Hypersensitivity
- Small tight scrotum/brisk cremasteric reflex

Anticoagulant/Anti-Platelet therapy:

Bleeding risk vs. thrombosis risk of the procedure should be considered on a case by case basis and for patients on short term anticoagulation consider postponing procedure until treatment has been completed. For patients taking any form of permanent anticoagulation treatment, this may need to be interrupted and the risks of this should be weighed up against the benefits of sterilisation and discussed with the patient. The risk of interrupting anticoagulation compared to increased bleeding during the procedure should be considered on a case by case basis. The British Society of Haematology guidelines should be used and specialist opinion sought if necessary.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/bjh.14344>

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 that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. Individual cases will be reviewed as per the ICB policy.

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