Laser Surgery for Short Sight

NHS NWL CCGs will not fund laser eye surgery for the correction of Myopia, funding may only be considered in exceptional circumstances via the Individual Funding Request (IFR) route.

These policies have been approved by the eight Clinical Commissioning Groups in North West London (NHS Brent CCG, NHS Central London CCG, NHS Ealing CCG, NHS Hammersmith and Fulham CCG, NHS Harrow CCG, NHS Hillingdon CCG, NHS Hounslow CCG and NHS West London CCG).

Background

Short sight or myopia (ICD-10 Code: H52.1) is a condition where distant objects appear blurred. Refractive errors are usually corrected by wearing spectacles or contact lenses, and these treatments are currently not available on the NHS. Both have limitations and contact lens wear is associated with an increased risk of sight-threatening corneal infection. Surgical treatments have been developed to permanently improve refraction by re-shaping the cornea. In laser (photorefractive) surgery, corneal re-shaping is achieved using excimer laser ablation. Excimer laser techniques include photorefractive keratectomy (PRK), laser epithelial keratomileusis (LASEK) and laser in situ keratomileusis (LASIK).

References

Patient information

http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Short-sightedness/Pages/Introduction.aspx

References