

West Yorkshire Integrate Care Board (WY ICB)					
Policy	Tattoo Removal			ICB Ref	Planned care
First Issue Date	To be confirmed	Current version:	1	Last reviewed:	December 2021
Review date	To be confirmed	Contact	West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership (WY HCP) wyhcp.plannedcare@nhs.net		
Clinical Reviewer	WY HCP	Approved by	WY ICB		
Policy exclusions					
Tattoo removal is not routinely commissioned.					
The treatment of decorative tattoos is considered cosmetic and will not be funded.					
Policy inclusion criteria					
Treatment for the removal of Tattoo/s is not routinely commissioned. Any requests that are not medically necessary are considered cosmetic and will not be funded. Tattoo removal may be considered on an individual, exceptional basis, where the GP or consultant has completed the necessary Individual Funding Request form.					
Cases may be considered on an exceptional basis, for example where the patient: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has suffered a significant allergic reaction to the dye and medical treatments have failed • Where the tattoo is the result of trauma, inflicted against the patient's will ("rape tattoo") • Exceptions may also be made for tattoos inflicted under duress during adolescence or disturbed periods where it is considered that psychological rehabilitation, break up of family units or prolonged unemployment could be avoided given the treatment opportunity. (Only considered in very exceptional circumstances where the tattoo causes marked limitations of psychosocial functioning). • Tattoos placed for radiotherapy. • Traumatic tattoos, secondary to inadequate wound cleansing from abrasions, fires and explosions. 					
<i>An enhancement for people across West Yorkshire with the policy now including patients who have 'traumatic' tattoos (see criteria above).</i>					
Summary of evidence / Rationale	1. Information for Commissioners of Plastic Surgery Services. Referrals and Guidelines in plastic surgery (PDF); http://www.bapras.org.uk/docs/default-source/commissioning-and-policy/information-for-commissioners-of-plastic-surgery-services.pdf?sfvrsn=2				
Reference	Cosmetic procedures - Tattoo removal - NHS (www.nhs.uk)				