



Intervention	009. Hair Removal by Intense pulsed light (IPL), laser or electrolysis for Hirsutism
For the treatment of	Hirsutism
Commissioning Position	<p>This intervention is commissioned and can be considered for people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have undergone reconstructive surgery leading to abnormally located hair bearing skin OR • have a proven underlying endocrine disturbance resulting in facial hirsutism (e.g. polycystic ovary syndrome) OR • require treatment for a pilonidal sinus, and associated hair removal is to reduce the risk of recurrence <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hair growth cannot be controlled by conservative methods. <p>Treatment should normally be limited to a maximum of 6 treatment sessions.</p> <p>Treatment for permanent or semi-permanent hair removal is not otherwise commissioned for personal preference on cosmetic grounds. Patients concerned with the appearance of their body and facial hair should be advised to self-manage their condition by conservative methods e.g. Shaving, waxing, or depilatory creams.</p> <p>For Gender Dysphoria patients, please see NHS England Specialised Commissioning Policy.</p>
Summary of Rationale	<p>Conservative self-management options and weight loss (if obese or overweight) should be tried for at least six months in the first instance for most people.</p> <p>Case series evidence suggests that after laser, IPL or electrolysis depilation, hair growth is reduced for a period of weeks to months, but multiple treatments may be required to achieve complete hair loss.</p>
References	Hirsutism Health topics A to Z CKS NICE
Effective from	October 2024
Policy Review Date	October 2027