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| Intervention | **109. Scar revision and skin resurfacing** |
| For the treatment of | Skin scarring |
| Commissioning Position | Surgery is commissioned if:   * Scarring is congenital or a consequence of previous NHS treatment, burns or trauma AND * Scarring is causing:   + adverse physical consequences (due to contraction, tethering or recurrent breakdown) OR   + significant functional impairment (for example obstruction of orifice or vision) OR   + bleeding   AND   * Where clinically appropriate, proactive conservative therapies aimed at arresting the development of adverse, keloid or hypertrophic scarring have been tried but have not been effective AND * At least 18 months of the natural healing process has passed.   Surgery is not commissioned for:   * Hypertrophic or keloid scars that are not causing adverse consequences or functional impairments (e.g. keloid scarring after ear piercing) * Scarring / ulceration from chronic tattoo breakdowns * Acne related scarring * Skin rejuvenation or other cosmetic purposes |
| Summary of Rationale | In line with national guidelines for Plastic Surgery, surgery undertaken exclusively to improve appearance is excluded from NHS provision in the absence of previous trauma, disease or congenital deformity. |
| References | [Information for commissioners of plastic surgery services (BAPRAS)](https://bapras.org.uk/docs/default-source/commissioning-and-policy/information-for-commissioners-of-plastic-surgery-services.pdf?sfvrsn=ba572cc3_2)  [Is cosmetic surgery available on the NHS? (www.nhs.uk)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cosmetic-procedures/advice/cosmetic-procedures-on-the-nhs/) |
| Effective from | January 2025 |
| Policy Review Date | January 2028 |