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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
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| 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 |