

## EXTERNAL EAR LOBE REPAIRS - ELECTIVE

### EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED

Procedures to correct external ear lobe deformities are not normally funded

#### Background

- Torn earlobes, or cleft ear lobes, may be classified as either a complete or partial cleft. Acquired clefts or splitting of the earlobes commonly occur from prolonged traction of heavy earrings. In rare cases, it can also occur from pressure necrosis from the clip-on earring, as well as from intentional and unintentional trauma. These clefts are most commonly incomplete; however, complete clefts are also common.
- The CCG will not fund elective procedures to correct external ear lobe deformities for cosmetic reasons.

If a clinician wishes to refer the patient to secondary care then funding must be authorised by the CCG via the Individual Funding Request route first.

#### References

- This policy has been informed by:

Reiter D, Alford EL. Torn earlobe: a new approach to management with a review of 68 cases. *Ann Otol Rhinol Laryngol.* 1994 Nov; 103(11):879-84.

Fearon J, Cuadros CL. Cleft earlobe repair. *Annals of Plastic Surgery*, Mar 1990, vol./is. 24/3(252-7), 0148-7043; 0148-7043 (1990 Mar)

Vujevich Goldberg LH, Obagi S. Repair of partial and complete earlobe clefts: a review of 21 methods. *Journal of Drugs in Dermatology: JDD*, Jul 2007, vol./is. 6/7(695-9), 1545-9616; 1545-9616 (2007 Jul)