

GROMMETS –CHILDREN ABOVE THE AGE OF 12 & ADULTS

CRITERIA BASED ACCESS

Grommets

Grommet insertion in adults is a procedure with limited or no evidence of effectiveness and/or only effective within a limited threshold range. NHS England's Sustainable Improvement Team uses Better Value, Better Care indicators to reduce excess surgical activity and inserting grommets is one of these procedures.

A discussion regarding the option of a hearing aid may be appropriate.

Criteria for grommets in adults and children above the age of 12

- The patient has Otitis Media with Effusion causing measured conductive hearing loss AND this has persisted for at least 6 months AND this is resistant to medical treatments AND the patient is experiencing disability due to deafness.

OR

- The patient has persistent Eustachian tube dysfunction AND this has persisted for at least 6 months AND this results in pain (e.g. when flying).

There are other, more rare ENT conditions such as Ménière's Disease which fall outside of the above criteria and require exceptional funding.

References

Grommets

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Glue-ear/Pages/Treatment.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Glue-ear/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Criteria for grommets in adults

<http://www.productivity.nhs.uk/>