

# PLANNED CAESAREAN SECTION POLICY



**With you.  
For you.**



## NHS West Lancashire CCG

### Policies for the Commissioning of Health and Healthcare

#### Policy for Planned Caesarean Section Policy

##### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document is part of a suite of policies adopted by the Commissioning Organisation to drive its commissioning of healthcare. Each policy in that suite is a separate public document in its own right, but will be applied with reference to other policies in that suite.
- 1.2 This framework describes the policy for commissioning Planned Caesarean Section.

##### 2 Definition

- 2.1 Caesarean Section is the end of a number of care pathways. This policy is in relation to Caesarean Section for managing and treating women who plan or who need to have a Caesarean Section and does not include emergency caesarean sections.

##### 3 Appropriate Healthcare

- 3.1 The Commissioning Organisation considers that the purpose of Planned Caesarean Section places it within the category of services that are appropriate for commissioning, under Category 1. Therefore it will be commissioned by the Commissioning Organisation if it also satisfies the criteria for effectiveness, cost effectiveness and ethical delivery.
- 3.2 The Commissioning Organisation does not consider it appropriate to commission planned caesarean section for non-clinical reasons, i.e. maternal request on its own is not an indication for caesarean section.

##### 4 Effective Healthcare

- 4.1 Planned caesarean is well documented and defined within National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Guidance.

##### 5 Cost effectiveness

- 5.1 The Commissioning Organisation recognised that the outcome cost effectiveness of this treatment is within the threshold, and that the service satisfies the criterion of cost effectiveness.

##### 6 Ethical Healthcare

- 6.1 The Commissioning Organisation recognises that this service satisfies the criteria within the 'Ethical' component of the Principles for Commissioning Health and Health Care document.

##### 7 Policy

- 7.1 The Commissioning Organisation recognises that whilst a planned caesarean section will not be routinely funded for women, as per NICE Guidance, for those patients where it is clinical advisable, judgement of the clinician responsible for managing the patient's condition will be used to determine the benefits of the procedure in terms of successful outcome.
  - 7.1.2 The commissioning organisation will not commission planned caesarean section for non-clinical reasons.

##### 8 Exceptions

- 8.1 The Commissioning Organisation will consider exceptions to this policy. This policy is based on criteria of appropriateness, effectiveness, cost effectiveness and ethical issues. A successful request to be regarded as an exception is likely to be based on evidence that the patient differs from the usual group of patients to which the policy applies, and this difference substantially changes the application of those criteria for this patient.

Requests for funding for planned caesarean section under exceptional circumstances may be submitted to the Commissioning Organisation's Individual Funding Request Panel.

## **9 Force**

- 9.1 This policy remains in force for a period of four years from the date of its adoption, or until it is superseded by a revised policy, whichever is sooner.

*Date of adoption: 1 June 2011*

*Date of review: July 2016*