

Policy Statement:	Plagiocephaly
Status:	Not Normally Funded

Positional plagiocephaly is a disorder that affects the skull, making the back or side of a baby's head appear flattened.

Helmets (cranial molding devices) will not be eligible for NHS funding.

Rationale

Plagiocephaly may be divided into craniosynostosis, which results from premature closure of one or more of the cranial sutures, and non-synostotic or positional plagiocephaly (also referred to as deformational plagiocephaly, non-synostotic plagiocephaly, positional plagiocephaly, flat-head syndrome and occipital plagiocephaly).

This distinction is highly important as craniosynostosis carries a significant risk of raised intracranial pressure, therefore requiring interventional surgery. Interventions for craniosynostosis are covered by specialist commissioning arrangements.

Positional plagiocephaly, however, has not been shown to be associated with any long term developmental problems and its treatment has been described as cosmetic.

References

1. <https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/conditions-and-treatments/conditions-we-treat-index-page-group/positional-plagiocephaly>
2. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/plagiocephaly-brachycephaly/>

Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. Individual cases will be reviewed as per the CCG policy.

Please also refer to the **cosmetic surgery general principles** prior to submitting an exceptional funding request.

Approved by (committee):	Health and Care commissioning Committee
Date approved:	January 2019
Produced by:	Clinical Commissioner
Updated by:	Clinical Effectiveness Manager
Review date:	January 2021