

Pathway:	Ganglion Surgery
Referral Criteria/Commissioning position:	
<p><i>Ganglion surgery is not routinely commissioned. GPs must obtain prior approval from the Individual Funding Request Panel (IFR) on the grounds of clinical exceptionality providing the following thresholds are met:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is doubt about the diagnosis (if there is any concern about possible malignancy, patients should be referred via the 2 week wait route) <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ganglion is causing significant functional impairment and/or pain (e.g. inability to fit shoes or walk) <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservative measures such as aspiration and bandaging have been attempted at least twice. Ganglia on the feet may need podiatry input <p>Referral for soft tissue ultrasound is not available. Referral for a surgical opinion can be made to provide diagnostic support. However, in these situations, even where a diagnosis of ganglion is made clinically, excision will not be funded unless deemed an exceptional clinical circumstance by the IFR panel.</p>	
Information to include in referral letter:	
<p><i>The GP referral letter should contain:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of how the patient meets the above criteria OR demonstrates clinical exceptionality • Duration of ganglion • Treatments and interventions tried including the results • Precise location of ganglion e.g. flexor tendon • Size in cm/inches (length and width) • How functioning of the area impaired? (What is the patient unable to do?) • Impact on quality of life e.g. is the patient unable to fulfil any essential activities such as cooking, dressing, washing etc.? • Degree of pain • Drug history (prescribed and non-prescribed) • Relevant past medical/surgical history • Current regular medication • BMI • Smoking status • Alcohol consumption 	
References & Additional information:	
For the full SRCCG commissioning policy please click here	
CCG GP sign off:	SRCCG Business Committee (Delegated to Dr Greg Black)
Next Review date:	2017