

Pathway	
	Excision of ganglion or mucoïd cyst.
Exclusions	
	Ganglia located proximal to the wrist or ankle.
Commissioned	
	Excision of Ganglia will only be funded when ALL the following criteria apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ganglion is causing pain or functional impairment persisting for over 3 months; 2. The symptoms are due to the size and location of the ganglion impinging on local structures; 3. An x-ray has excluded arthritis of joints in proximity to the ganglion as the cause of symptoms; 4. The ganglion has recurred despite aspiration on at least 2 occasions.
	Excision of Mucoïd Cysts will only be funded for the following indications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The cyst becomes complicated by infection or ulceration which fails to settle within 3 months. 2. The cyst is progressively interfering with nail growth.
Not Funded	
	Removal of ganglions or mucoïd cysts will not be funded for cosmetic reasons.
Rationale	
	<p>Evidence-Based Interventions: Response to the public consultation and next steps. Published by NHS England in partnership with NHS Clinical Commissioners, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, NHS Improvement and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence November 2018.</p> <p>A ganglion is a benign, mucin-filled cyst that forms around joints or tendons and is the commonest benign soft tissue tumour of the hand and wrist. Mucoïd cysts are ganglia associated with the distal inter-phalangeal joint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most are symptom free, but occasionally they can cause pain, weakness, functional impairment, pressure neuropathy or become infected. ▪ Spontaneous resolution can be expected in 50% of adults and up to 79% of children. ▪ Ultrasound is useful when the diagnosis is in doubt. ▪ Complications of surgical excision include scar sensitivity, joint stiffness and distal numbness. ▪ Recurrence after surgery can be up to 40%. ▪ Recurrence after aspiration is around 73% but after three serial aspirations this falls to 15%.
Cohort	
	Children and Adults.
Equality	
	Compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
Status	

RED as defined in the Prior Approval Scheme Policy.	
OPCS codes	
Excision of ganglion of wrist	T59.1
Excision of ganglion of hand NEC	T59.2
Excision of ganglion of foot	T59.4
Re-excision of ganglion of wrist	T60.1
Re-excision of ganglion of hand NEC	T60.2
Re-excision of ganglion of foot	T60.4
Version History	
This version introduces a 3-month period of conservative management plus a requirement that ganglia have persisted despite aspiration on 2 separate occasions.	
Authorised	
April 2019	
Review	
April 2024 Earlier if new evidence published by NICE or other authoritative body.	