

<b>Pathway</b>	
	Varicose vein interventions including endothelium ablation, foam sclerotherapy and surgical stripping.
<b>Commissioned</b>	
	<p><b>Varicose vein treatment</b> will only be funded for the following indications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eczema or lipodermatosclerosis associated with varicose veins.</li> <li>2. Venous ulceration of the skin secondary to varicose veins.</li> <li>3. Two or more documented episodes of superficial thrombophlebitis within a 12-month period.</li> <li>4. Superficial thrombophlebitis requiring anticoagulation due to proximity to deep venous system.</li> <li>5. Major episode of bleeding from a varicosity.</li> </ol>
<b>Not Funded</b>	
	Treatment of thread veins.
<b>Notes</b>	
	Please provide photographic evidence where possible to support the application for funding.
<b>Rationale</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Evidence-Based Interventions:</b> 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.</li> <li>▪ Varicose veins are tortuous, distended superficial veins of the legs. The majority are caused by incompetent long and short saphenous veins. Usually the varicosities are obvious, but they may be obscured by oedema or excessive subcutaneous fat.</li> <li>▪ In the UK, varicose veins occur in around 15–20% of adults.</li> <li>▪ Varicose veins should not be confused with the more superficial intradermal spider and thread veins.</li> <li>▪ Patients report symptoms such as aches and pains, restless legs, cramps, itchiness, heaviness and oedema. However, a link between symptoms and varicose veins can be difficult to establish.</li> <li>▪ Weight reduction is important in obese patients and graduated support stockings are effective in relieving associated symptoms.</li> <li>▪ Surgical treatment should be reserved for patients with significant complications.</li> <li>▪ Dermal complications include eczema, induration, pigmentation, and venous ulceration.</li> <li>▪ Prominent varicose veins can bleed as a result of trauma or thrombophlebitis can develop.</li> </ul>
<b>Cohort</b>	
	Adults.
<b>Equality</b>	
	Compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
<b>Status</b>	

<b>RED</b> as defined in the Prior Approval Scheme Policy.	
<b>OPCS codes</b>	
Subfascial ligation of perforating vein of leg	L83.2
Combined operations on primary long saphenous vein	L84.1
Combined operations on primary short saphenous vein	L84.2
Combined operations on primary long and short saphenous vein	L84.3
Combined operations on recurrent long saphenous vein	L84.4
Combined operations on recurrent short saphenous vein	L84.5
Combined operations on recurrent long and short saphenous vein	L84.6
Ligation of long saphenous vein	L85.1
Ligation of short saphenous vein	L85.2
Ligation of recurrent varicose vein of leg	L85.3
Injection of sclerosing substance into varicose vein of leg NEC	L86.1
Ultrasound guided foam sclerotherapy for varicose vein of leg	L86.2
Injection of glue into varicose vein of leg	L86.3
Stripping of long saphenous vein	L87.1
Stripping of short saphenous vein	L87.2
Stripping of varicose vein of leg NEC	L87.3
Avulsion of varicose vein of leg	L87.4
Local excision of varicose vein of leg	L87.5
Incision of varicose vein of leg	L87.6
Transilluminated powered phlebectomy of varicose vein of leg	L87.7
Percutaneous transluminal laser ablation of long saphenous vein	L88.1
Radiofrequency ablation of varicose vein of leg	L88.2
Percutaneous transluminal laser ablation of varicose vein of leg NEC	L88.3
<b>Version History</b>	
A 12-month timeframe has been added to the superficial thrombophlebitis criterion.	
<b>Authorised</b>	
April 2019	
<b>Review</b>	
April 2024 Earlier if new evidence published by NICE or other authoritative body.	