

SHIP8 Clinical Commissioning Groups Priorities Committee

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| Policy title Number/version 2.0 | Policy 36: Tonsillectomy - adults and children (2020) <i>Amendment relating to tonsil stones to Policy 36 Tonsillectomy - adults and children (2018)</i> |
| Policy position | Criteria Based Access |
| Date of Committee Recommendation/ CCG recommendation | 19/11/2020 |
| Update | This policy will be updated as per 3 year cycle or in light of a substantial body of new evidence or new national guidance (e.g. NICE) |

Tonsillectomy is an operation to remove the tonsils. Tonsillectomy is a **NOT NORMALLY FUNDED** procedure. Prior approval may be considered if the following criteria are met:

- In children and adults for cases of two or more quinsy requiring hospital intervention.
- In children with diagnosed obstructive sleep apnoea where other treatments have failed or are inappropriate.
- In children and adults for tonsillitis if all of the following criteria are met:
 - Sore throats are due to tonsillitis **AND**
 - There are 7 or more episodes per year of sore throat requiring treatment such as antibiotics or 5 or more episodes a year for two years or 3 or more episodes a year for three years **AND**
 - There have been symptoms for at least a year **AND**
 - Episodes of sore throat are disabling and preventing normal functioning

Tonsil stones (tonsilloliths)

Tonsil stones are caused by debris becoming calcified in the crevices of the tonsils. They may cause symptoms such as halitosis, sensation of a foreign body and irritation of the throat. Self-management can include gargling and prevention of the formation of tonsil stones by the use of good oral hygiene.

Due to a lack of robust evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness, tonsillectomy for symptoms arising from tonsil stones is an intervention **NOT NORMALLY FUNDED**.

Exceptional circumstances may be considered where there is evidence of significant health impairment and there is also evidence of the intervention improving health status

Clinical coding

Procedure Codes

F341 Bilateral dissection tonsillectomy
F342 Bilateral guillotine tonsillectomy
F343 Bilateral laser tonsillectomy
F344 Bilateral excision of tonsil NEC
F345 Excision of remnant of tonsil
F346 Excision of lingual tonsil
F347 Bilateral coblation tonsillectomy
F348 Other specified excision of tonsil
F349 Unspecified excision of tonsil

Diagnosis Codes

J039 Acute tonsillitis, unspecified
G47.3 Sleep Apnoea
J450 Chronic Tonsillitis
J36X Peritonsillar abscess (Quinsy)