

# Referral Protocol for Laser Therapy

Cosmetic surgery/treatment is not routinely offered by the NHS and can only be provided on an exceptional basis in line with these guidelines.

Laser treatment is not suitable for out patients under the age of five years.

The following conditions should only be referred after a clinical assessment when there is a symptomatic or functional requirement for treatment. All cases will be judged against agreed criteria on an individual basis. Referral for consideration does not necessarily mean that treatment will be offered and this should be communicated to the patient.

Condition	Exceptional Physical/Other Criteria
Acne Scarring	Assessment of suitability for laser treatment referral to psychologist if required.
Amateur Tattoos	Face, neck ,hands and forearms
Facial hirsutism in women	Please refer to hirsutism flowchart and complete an exceptional referral form for facial hirsutism Excessive male pattern facial hair growth only (not hairline, eyebrows, upper lip) Dark hair only (not effective on blonde or grey)
Hair removal secondary to surgery or specific conditions (free flaps, stoma sites, spina bifida, pilonidal sinus)	Tertiary referral only from specific speciality
Pigmented lesions (brown birthmarks, café au lait, hairy naevi)	Significant risk of neoplasia Causing functional problems or significant disfigurement
Port wine stains (capillary malformation)	Causing functional problems or significant disfigurement
Scars	See attached scar management pathway
Spider naevi	In children and young people between the ages of 5-18 years (only face, neck and hands)
Thread veins	Laser service may be available if there are disfiguring thread veins or telangectasia on the face
Warts and verrucas	Tertiary referral from Dermatology only when all other methods of treatment have been ineffective.