Routine Circumcision of Normal Male Infants - Policy

**Summary**
Consistent with PD2009_018, routine circumcision of infant males should not be performed in public hospitals in NSW. Accurate information on the risks and benefits of circumcision must be given to parents and, if undertaken, a competent operator should undertake the procedure.

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Policy Directive

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**Policy manual**
Patient Matters

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N/A

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Review

**Functional group**
Clinical/Patient Services - Baby and Child, Surgical

**Applies to**
Local Health Districts, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, Community Health Centres, Government Medical Officers, Public Hospitals

**Distributed to**
Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, NSW Ambulance Service, Ministry of Health, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres

**Audience**
Clinical;medical;nursing;midwifery;early childhood health;administration
ROUTINE CIRCUMCISION OF NORMAL MALE INFANTS - POLICY

PURPOSE
To ensure a consistent, evidence-based, state-wide policy approach to the routine circumcision of normal male infants in the NSW Public Health System. It does not relate to cases where there is a clear clinical need for intervention, nor directly to adult male circumcision.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

This Policy Directive is to be read in conjunction with PD2009_018 Waiting Time and Elective Patient Management Policy and IB2009_018 Advice for Referring and Treating Doctors – Waiting Time & Elective Patient Management, which place ‘social circumcision’ (ie not clinically indicated) on a list of surgical procedures that “should not routinely be performed in public hospitals in NSW unless there is a clear clinical need to improve a patient’s physical health.”

IMPLEMENTATION
Local Health Districts are responsible for ensuring that:
- Routine circumcision of infant males is not performed in public hospitals in NSW.
- Where parents request circumcision for their infant son, they will be provided with accurate, unbiased and up-to-date information on the risks and benefits of the procedure. The RACP Parent Resource is appropriate for this purpose and is available at the RACP website. Parents who request further information should also be referred to the RACP Statement.

REVISION HISTORY

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<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
<th>Amendment notes</th>
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