

Circumcision of Normal Infant Males

Summary Routine circumcision of normal infant males is not performed in public hospitals in NSW Health. This does not apply to cases where there is a clear clinical need for intervention, nor directly to adult male circumcision. This Policy Directive states that parents who request routine circumcision must be provided with accurate information on the risks and benefits of circumcision.

Document type Policy Directive

Document number PD2020_035

Publication date 07 October 2020

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Replaces PD2012_009

Review date 07 October 2022

Policy manual Patient Matters Manual for Public Health Organisations

File number H20/57890

Status Active

Functional group Clinical/Patient Services - Baby and Child, Maternity, Medical Treatment, Nursing and Midwifery, Surgical

Applies to Ministry of Health, Public Health Units, Local Health Districts, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Community Health Centres, Public Hospitals

Distributed to Ministry of Health, Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Tertiary Education Institutes

Audience Surgical;Medical Officers;Nursing and Midwifery;Early Childhood Health;Neonatal & Paediatric;Policy;Administration;Policy Officers

CIRCUMCISION OF NORMAL MALE INFANTS

POLICY STATEMENT

Routine circumcision of normal infant males is **not** performed in public hospitals in NSW Health. This **does not** apply to cases where there is a clear clinical need for intervention, nor directly to adult male circumcision.

Parents who request routine circumcision must be provided with accurate information on the risks and benefits of circumcision.

SUMMARY OF POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Parents who request circumcision for their infant son must be provided with accurate, unbiased and up to date information about the risks and benefits of the procedure.

Two resources that are recommended for staff:

- The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) guide for parents [RACP - circumcision a guide for parents](#).
- The Sydney Children's Hospital's Network Fact Sheet: [SCHN factsheet - male infant circumcision](#).

Parents must also be referred to RACP statement on circumcision, [RACP Statement - Circumcision](#).

THIS POLICY DIRECTIVE MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH:

NSW Health Policy Directive *Waiting Time and Elective Surgery Policy* ([PD2012_011](#)) (**Section 2.3:** Circumcision is listed as a discretionary procedure “*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*”)

NSW Health Information Bulletin *Advice for referring and Treating Doctors – Waiting Time and Elective Surgery Policy* ([IB2012_004](#)).

REVISION HISTORY

| Version | Approved by | Amendment notes |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| October-2020 (PD2020_035) | Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Planning | New links to PD2012_011 and IB2012_004 and the Sydney Children's Hospital Facts Sheet |
| January 2012 (PD2012_009) | Deputy Director General Population Health | New document outlining policy statement for routine circumcision of normal infant males. |
| October 2003 (PD2005_330) | Director-General | Originally issued as Circular 2003/77 |