NHS
Greater Manchester

Surgical repair of hernias - Get involved

Instructions

- Write as **clearly** as you can— these forms might be scanned
- Write your answers in the same language as this form

Welcome

Welcome to our survey to seek views on the proposed criteria that patients with a hernia will need to meet for surgery.

To view the proposed commissioning statement, please click here .

What is a hernia?

Hernias are generally defined as a bulge or lump, consisting of an underlying piece of tissue or organ (e.g. part of the bowel), which appears through a point of weakness in the abdominal wall.

Whilst many patients are symptom-free, others will experience pain and discomfort which can significantly affect their daily activities.

Frequently, the hernia can simply be pushed back into place. However, in some cases, this isn't possible and eventually the trapped contents may experience a reduced blood supply.

These "strangulated" hernias pose an immediate threat to health and require an emergency intervention.

Why is NHS GM reviewing its commissioning statement?

The current GM Hernia Commissioning Statement was last fully reviewed in April 2025 and has therefore been scheduled for review by the GM PLCV Steering Group.

If you have any questions, or would like this in a different format, please contact us on gmhscp.engagement@nhs.net.

This survey is anonymous, but if you want to know how we use any information that you give us, please visit our website.

1. Which of the below best describes you?

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ A patient who has had one or more of these procedures.
- ◯ A patient who is waiting to have one or more of these procedures.
- ◯ A family member, carer or friend of someone who has had or is waiting to have one or more of these procedures.
- ◯ Staff or professional involved in the delivery or commissioning of one or more of the procedures.
- ◯ I am an interested member of the public.
- ◯ I want to respond on behalf of an organisation.
- ◯ Other (please tell us more)

If 'Other (please tell us more)', please specify

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2. **How much do you agree or disagree that hernia surgery should only be routinely commissioned if the criteria below are satisfied?** (optional)

Referral and/or surgical intervention in the management of a variety of hernias is routinely commissioned in the following circumstances:-

All hernias

- Any hernia accompanied by signs or symptoms of strangulation or obstruction is an EMERGENCY referral
- Any hernia which is irreducible and symptomatic is an URGENT referral.

Groin hernia (inguinal or femoral)

- Any grade of groin hernia (inguinal or femoral) in women is an URGENT referral.
- Minimally symptomatic inguinal hernia in men is a ROUTINE referral to determine the appropriateness of watchful waiting and subsequent management.
- Symptomatic and reducible inguinal hernia in men is a ROUTINE referral.

Ventral hernia (Incisional, umbilical or epigastric)

- Minimally symptomatic ventral (umbilical & epigastric) hernia in men or women is a ROUTINE referral to determine the appropriateness of watchful waiting and subsequent management.
- Symptomatic ventral (incisional) hernia in men or women which is markedly affecting their daily quality of life is an URGENT referral.

However, a healthcare professional can ask for an exception to the above by submitting an Individual Funding Request. Please note: it is very rare that a patient will have a true exceptional healthcare need.

The request is reviewed by Greater Manchester's Individual Funding Request Panel to decide if the patient truly has an exceptional need, referred to as a "clinical exception".

**Only choose one option.*

◯ Strongly agree
◯ Agree
◯ Neither agree nor disagree
◯ Disagree
◯ Strongly disagree

3. **Please tell us why you thought this?** (optional)

4. **How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: NHS Greater Manchester should only provide treatment where there is clear evidence which shows good benefits for patients.** (optional)

   Benefits might include where there is:

   - a reduction in pain or discomfort
   - increased movement

   **Only choose one option.*

   ◯ Strongly agree
   ◯ Agree
   ◯ Neither agree nor disagree
   ◯ Disagree
   ◯ Strongly disagree

5. **Please tell us why you thought this?** (optional)

6. **How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: NHS Greater Manchester should only spend on procedures which represent good value for money.** (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ Strongly agree
- ◯ Agree
- ◯ Neither agree nor disagree
- ◯ Disagree
- ◯ Strongly disagree

7. **Please tell us why you thought this?** (optional)

8. **Do you think the proposed commissioning statement impacts on you or a particular community unfairly?** (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Prefer not to say

9. **If yes, please tell us why?** (optional)

10. **Is there anything else you would like to share with us?** (optional)

About you

We now have a few questions about you.

Its important to us that we collect this data to make sure we have representation from across our diverse communities.

However you can skip any questions that you do not want to answer or feel you cannot answer.

Please answer as many of the questions below as you are willing to. Please scroll down the page to answer all the questions.

11. **What area of Greater Manchester do you live or work in?** (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ Bolton
- ◯ Bury
- ◯ Manchester
- ◯ Oldham
- ◯ Rochdale
- ◯ Salford
- ◯ Stockport
- ◯ Tameside
- ◯ Trafford
- ◯ Wigan
- ◯ I work across Greater Manchester
- ◯ I do not live or work in Greater Manchester

12. **How old are you?** (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ 17 or under
- ◯ 18-25 years
- ◯ 26-35 years
- ◯ 36-45 years
- ◯ 46-55 years
- ◯ 56-65 years
- ◯ 66-75 years
- ◯ 76 or over
- ◯ Prefer not to say

13. **Do you consider yourself to have a disability?** (optional)

    Disability includes any long term illness or condition that limits your ability to live your everyday life.

    **Only choose one option.*

    ◯ Yes
    ◯ No
    ◯ Prefer not to say

14. **If yes, can you please tell us what disability you have?** (optional)

    _____

15. **What is your ethnicity?** (optional)

    Please describe your ethnicity or ethnic background however best fits you.

    _____

16. **What is your faith?** (optional)

    **Only choose one option.*

    ◯ Atheist / None
    ◯ Christian
    ◯ Jewish
    ◯ Prefer not to say
    ◯ Buddhist
    ◯ Hindu
    ◯ Sikh
    ◯ Other

    If 'Other', please specify

    _____

17. **How do you identify your gender?** (optional)

    **Only choose one option.*

    ◯ Female
    ◯ Intersex
    ◯ Prefer not to say
    ◯ Male
    ◯ Non-binary
    ◯ Other

    If 'Other', please specify

    _____

18. **Is your current gender identify the same as the gender you were described at birth?** (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Prefer not to say

19. **What is your sexual orientation?** (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ Heterosexual / Straight
- ◯ Homosexual / Gay / Lesbian
- ◯ Bisexual
- ◯ Prefer not to say
- ◯ Other

If 'Other', please specify

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20. **What is your relationship status?** (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ Co-habiting
- ◯ Married /Civil Partnership
- ◯ Single
- ◯ Widow/Widower
- ◯ Prefer not to say
- ◯ Other

If 'Other', please specify

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21. **Are you a carer?** (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Prefer not to say

22. **What is your employment status?** (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ A student
- ◯ Apprenticeship scheme or training
- ◯ Employed / Self-employed
- ◯ Retired
- ◯ Unemployed
- ◯ Prefer not to say
- ◯ Other

If 'Other', please specify

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23. Are you currently or have you served in any of the UK armed Forces? (optional)

**Only choose one option.*

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Prefer not to say

Thank you. Please push the submit button at the bottom of the page to register your response.

You're almost done, you just need to press the submit button at the bottom of the page to register your comments.

Before you go, we want to thank you for taking part.