

## Routine Circumcision of Normal Male Infants - Policy

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**Functional Sub group** Clinical/ Patient Services - Baby and child  
Clinical/ Patient Services - Surgical

**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.

**Replaces Doc. No.** Circumcision of Normal Male Infants [PD2005\_330]

**Author Branch** Maternity, Children and Young Peoples Health

**Branch contact** April Deering 9424 5764

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

**Audience** Clinical, medical, nursing, midwifery, early childhood health, administration

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

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**Policy Manual** Patient Matters

**File No.** 11/1512

**Status** Active

### Director-General

This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is **mandatory** for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.

## 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

Consistent with the advice of the NSW Maternity and Perinatal Committee and the Maternity and Perinatal Health Priority Taskforce, NSW Health endorses the 2010 statement of the Paediatrics & Child Health Division of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) on Circumcision of Infant Males. Information from the RACP for doctors and parents is available at <http://www.racp.edu.au/page/policy-and-advocacy/paediatrics-and-child-health>.

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

Version	Approved by	Amendment notes
January 2012 (PD2012_009)	Deputy Director- General Population Health	New document outlining the policy statement for the routine circumcision of normal infant males. Rescinds PD2005_330.
October 2003 (PD2005_330)	Director-General	Originally issued as Circular 2003/77