

## Chalazia removal – PRIOR APPROVAL

The evidence shows that alternative treatment options (warm compresses, drops or ointment, steroid injection) or a “watch and wait” approach will lead to resolution of many chalazia without the risks of surgery.

This procedure involves incision and curettage (scraping away) of the contents of the chalazion. Chalazia (meibomian cysts) are benign lesions on the eyelids due to blockage and swelling of an oil gland that normally change size over a few weeks.

Many but not all resolve within six months with regular application of warm compresses and massage.

Incision and curettage (or triamcinolone injection for suitable candidates) of chalazia should only be undertaken if at least one of the following criteria have been met:

- Has been present for more than 6 months and has been managed conservatively with warm compresses, lid cleaning and massage for 4 weeks
- Interferes significantly with vision
- Interferes with the protection of the eye by the eyelid due to altered lid closure or lid anatomy
- Is a source of infection that has required medical attention twice or more within a six month time frame
- Is a source of infection causing an abscess which requires drainage
- If malignancy (cancer) is suspected e.g. Madarosis/recurrence/other suspicious features in which case the lesion should be removed and sent for histology as for all suspicious lesions.