

## Haemorrhoid surgery – PRIOR APPROVAL

Numerous interventions exist for the management of haemorrhoids (piles). The evidence recommends that surgical treatment should only be considered for haemorrhoids that keep coming back after treatment or for haemorrhoids that are significantly affecting daily life. Changes to the diet like eating more fibre and drinking more water can often help with haemorrhoids. Treatments that can be done in clinic like rubber band ligation, may be effective especially for less severe haemorrhoids.

Often haemorrhoids (especially early stage haemorrhoids) can be treated by simple measures such as eating more fibre or drinking more water. If these treatments are unsuccessful many patients will respond to outpatient treatment in the form of banding or perhaps injection.

Surgical treatment should only be considered for those that do not respond to these non-operative measures or if the haemorrhoids are more severe, specifically:

- Recurrent grade 3 or grade 4 combined internal/external haemorrhoids with persistent pain or bleeding;
- Irreducible and large external haemorrhoids

In cases where there is significant rectal bleeding the patient should be examined internally by a specialist.