*Extract from the below named document for ICS Implementation purposes;* [*Microsoft Word - EBI consultation response statutory guidance 11 Jan 2019 FINAL v2.0 CLEAN + cover sheet.docx (aomrc.org.uk)*](https://www.aomrc.org.uk/ebi/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ebi-statutory-guidance.pdf)

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Dilatation and curettage (D&C) for heavy menstrual bleeding in women

Updated description of the intervention

NICE guidelines recommend that D&C is not offered as a diagnostic or treatment option for heavy menstrual bleeding, as there is very little evidence to suggest that it works to investigate or treat heavy periods9.

Ultrasound scans and camera tests, with sampling of the lining of the womb (hysteroscopy and biopsy), can be used to investigate heavy periods. Medication and intrauterine systems (IUS), as well as weight loss (if appropriate) can treat heavy periods.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng88> and https://[www.nhs.uk/conditions/hysteroscopy/#alternatives-to-hysteroscopy](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hysteroscopy/#alternatives-to-hysteroscopy)

Updated clinical criteria

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| Summary of intervention |
| Dilation and curettage (D&C) is a minor surgical procedure where the opening of the womb (cervix) is widened (dilatation) and the lining of the womb is scraped out (curettage). |
| Number of CCG interventions in 2017/18 |
| 236 |
| Recommendation |
| D&C should not be used for diagnosis or treatment for heavy menstrual bleeding in women because it is clinically ineffective.  UItrasound scans and camera tests with sampling of the lining of the womb (hysteroscopy and biopsy) can be used to investigate heavy periods.  Medication and intrauterine systems (IUS) can be used to treat heavy periods. For further information, please see:  https://[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng88](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng88)  https://[www.nhs.uk/conditions/hysteroscopy/#alternatives-to-hysteroscopy](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hysteroscopy/#alternatives-to-hysteroscopy) |
| Rationale for Recommendation |
| NICE guidelines recommend that D&C is not offered as a treatment option for heavy menstrual bleeding. There is very little evidence to suggest that D&C works to treat heavy periods and the one study identified by NICE showed the effects were only temporary. D&C should not be used to investigate heavy menstrual bleeding as hysteroscopy and biopsy work better. Complications following D&C are rare but include uterine perforation, infection, adhesions (scar tissue) inside the uterus and damage to the cervix. |
| References |
| NICE guidance: https://[www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng88](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng88)  NHS advice: https://[www.nhs.uk/conditions/hysteroscopy/#alternatives-to-](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hysteroscopy/#alternatives-to-) hysteroscopy  MacKenzie IZ, Bibby JG. Critical assessment of dilatation and curettage in 1029 women. Lancet 1978;2(8089):566–8.  Ben-Baruch G, Seidman DS, Schiff E, et al. Outpatient endometrial sampling with the Pipelle curette. Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation 1994;37(4):260–2.  Gimpelson RJ, Rappold HO. A comparative study between panoramic hysteroscopy with directed biopsies and dilatation and curettage. A review of 276 cases. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology 1988;158(3 Pt 1):489–92.  Haynes PJ, Hodgson H, Anderson AB, et al. Measurement of menstrual blood loss in patients complaining of menorrhagia. British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology 1977;84(10):763–8. |

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