KAISER PERMANENTE®

Clinical Review Criteria

Gender Affirming Surgeries

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington

Criteria

For Medicare Members

Source	Policy
CMS Coverage Manuals	None
National Coverage Determinations (NCD)	Gender Dysphoria and Gender Reassignment Surgery (140.9). CMS has deferred to the local MAC for decision coverage (Noridian for Washington State. Currently Noridian has no policy as of 04/05/2022)
Local Coverage Determinations (LCD)	None
Local Coverage Article	CAG-00446N- Gender Dysphoria and Gender Reassignment Surgery
Kaiser Permanente Medical Policy	Due to the absence of a NCD, LCD, or other coverage guidance, Kaiser Permanente has chosen to use their own Clinical Review Criteria, "***Gender Affirming Surgeries***" for medical necessity determinations. Use the Non-Medicare criteria below.

Self-Funded Groups:

Coverage may vary for members of self-funded groups and may provide additional exclusions – see member's specific contract or contact member services for specific exceptions and limitations.

Self-Funded Group	Policy
For Microsoft employees	See the member's contract for specific coverage details
For Sound Health and Wellness	See ***Non-Medicare policy*** below for coverage details, **with the exception of the following exclusions**: • Facial contouring and other facial reconstructive surgeries; and • Procedures including but not limited to hairline advancement and transplantation; and • Body hair removal (*except face/neck and preop genital hair removal*); and • Voice modification including speech therapy; and • Collagen injections • Liposuction • Abdominoplasty; and • Other cosmetic procedures are not covered services under the plan *Per the Summary of Material Modifications dated March 31, 2023*
For Washington State Teamsters Trust	See the member's contract for specific coverage details
For King County employees	See the member's contract for specific coverage details. Coverage

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	criteria are based on the Standards of Care published by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

For Non-Medicare Members:
Members must be enrolled in the Kaiser Permanente of Washington Gender Health Case Management Program to qualify for the gender health services benefit. **To be considered in network all *initial* referrals for gender affirming services including surgical consults (excluding GAHT and/or blockers) must be submitted by the Gender Health Case Management team *(Not applicable for options patients utilizing out of network benefit. Out of network provider to place referral and request authorization from the health plan).***

I. **Requirements for hair removal to treat gender dysphoria**

Kaiser Permanente of Washington will cover hair removal for members with documented gender dysphoria according to the criteria below with a goal of hair removal to align with identified gender. Member can have either electrolysis or laser hair removal or both. The member must work with the Kaiser Permanente of Washington Gender Health Case Manager to ensure prior authorization is obtained for the service and arrange for either insurance billing or member reimbursement for services.

Procedures:

Facial Hair Removal*
- 16+ with parental consent or 18+ years old **AND**
- Six months of maximally tolerated Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy (GAHT) (including but not limited to antiandrogens such as spironolactone; T blockers such as leuprolide; and hormones such as: estrogen) appropriate to their desired gender, unless medically contraindicated (e.g., GAHT may be contraindicated when not consistent with members gender identity such as non-binary) **OR**
- In testicular bodied patients, testosterone <100 **OR**
- History of orchiectomy

NOTE: Hair removal is not covered for members using exogenous testosterone, as hair growth is expected

Body Hair Removal*
- 16+ with parental consent or 18+ years old **AND**
- Taking Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy (GAHT) (including but not limited to antiandrogens such as spironolactone; T blockers such as leuprolide; and hormones such as: estrogen) appropriate to their desired gender, for 2-3 years unless medically contraindicated (e.g., GAHT may be contraindicated when not consistent with members gender identity such as non-binary) **AND**
- In testicular bodied patients, testosterone <100 **OR**
- History of orchiectomy

NOTE: Hair removal is not covered for members using exogenous testosterone, as hair growth is expected

Preoperative hair removal for genital reconstructive surgery – as indicated based on surgical plan, see element IV below.

Note: Patients who have not had gender reassignment surgery (gonadectomy or vaginoplasty) should continue hormone/anti-androgen therapy unless contraindicated during and after hair removal to prevent recurrence.

II. **Mastectomy** (i.e., initial mastectomy, with nipple sparing or tattooing) for members assigned female at birth. Plastic Surgery credentials are preferred for Mastectomy. Mastectomy may be medically necessary when **ALL of the following** criteria are met:

A. Age 18 years or older (Note: age requirement will not be applied to mastectomy for members assigned female at birth if the surgeon, the primary care provider, and the qualified mental health professional unanimously document the medical necessity of earlier intervention)
B. Single letter of referral from a qualified mental health professional** within the past 18 months; and the letter

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should include:

i. Gender incongruence is marked and sustained;
ii. Meets diagnostic criteria for gender incongruence prior to gender-affirming surgical intervention in regions where a diagnosis is necessary to access health care;
iii. Demonstrates capacity to consent for the specific gender-affirming surgical intervention;
iv. Understands the effect of gender-affirming surgical intervention on reproduction and they have explored reproductive options;
v. Other possible causes of apparent gender incongruence have been identified and excluded;
vi. Mental health and physical conditions that could negatively impact the outcome of gender-affirming surgical intervention have been assessed, with risks and benefits have been discussed;

C. The health plan may require a second opinion regarding the patient's stability prior to surgery if in question.
D. Stable on their gender affirming hormonal treatment regime (which may include at least 6 months of hormone treatment or a longer period if required to achieve the desired surgical result, unless hormone therapy is either not desired or is medically contraindicated). **Note:** a trial of hormone therapy is not a pre-requisite to qualifying for a mastectomy for members.
E. Patient has already undergone social transition*** or has a plan to do so after surgery

III. **Breast augmentation** for members assigned male at birth. Plastic Surgery credentials are preferred for Breast Augmentation. Breast Augmentation may be medically necessary when **ALL of the following** criteria are met:

A. Age 18 years or older (Note: age requirement will not be applied to augmentation for members assigned male at birth if the surgeon, the primary care provider, and the qualified mental health professional unanimously document the medical necessity of earlier intervention)

B. Single letter of referral from a qualified mental health professional** within the last 18 months; and this letter should include:
i. Gender incongruence is marked and sustained;
ii. Meets diagnostic criteria for gender incongruence prior to gender-affirming surgical intervention in regions where a diagnosis is necessary to access health care;
iii. Demonstrates capacity to consent for the specific gender-affirming surgical intervention;
iv. Understands the effect of gender-affirming surgical intervention on reproduction and they have explored reproductive options;
v. Other possible causes of apparent gender incongruence have been identified and excluded;
vi. Mental health and physical conditions that could negatively impact the outcome of gender-affirming surgical intervention have been assessed, with risks and benefits have been discussed;

C. The health plan may require a second opinion regarding the patient's stability prior to surgery if in question; and

D. **Effective until July 1, 2025**
Stable on their gender affirming hormonal treatment regime (which may include at least 6 months of hormone treatment or a longer period if required to achieve the desired surgical result, unless hormone therapy is either not desired or is medically contraindicated) and

Effective July 1, 2025
Stable on their gender affirming hormonal treatment and 12 months of therapy with oral estrogen, unless medically contraindicated, has failed to result in breast tissue development in the range typical for adult cis-gendered women. Typical breast development includes the presence of breast mounds which extend beyond the circumference of the areaolae with or without secondary breast mound formation beneath the areolae. Hypomastia alone does not meet medical necessity for breast augmentation when breast development is within the expected range of cis-gendered women.

E. Patient has already undergone social transition*** or has a plan to do so after surgery
The criteria above apply for only initial augmentation mammaplasty for members assigned male at birth, any additional breast augmentation after an initial mammaplasty is considered a cosmetic procedure, and

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therefore, a contract exclusion.

IV. **Gonadectomy (hysterectomy, oophorectomy or orchiectomy) and Genital Reconstructive Surgery** including, but not limited to: vaginectomy, vulvectomy, colpocleisis, colpectomy, metoidioplasty, vaginoplasty, perineoplasty, colovaginoplasty, penectomy, clitoroplasty, labioplasty, phalloplasty, scrotoplasty, urethroplasty, testicular prosthesis (expanders and implants), penile prosthesis, hair removal in the pubic surgical area for members assigned male at birth, hair removal on the forearm prior to phalloplasty for members assigned female at birth, mons resection. Plastic Surgery, Urology and/or Gynecology Credentials are preferred for genital reconstructive surgery. Genital reconstructive surgery may be medically necessary when **ALL of the following** criteria are met :

A. Age 18 years and older; and
B. One referral letter from a qualified mental health professional** within the last 18 months; and this letter should include:
   i. Gender incongruence is marked and sustained;
   ii. Meets diagnostic criteria for gender incongruence prior to gender-affirming surgical intervention in regions where a diagnosis is necessary to access health care;
   iii. Demonstrates capacity to consent for the specific gender-affirming surgical intervention;
   iv. Understands the effect of gender-affirming surgical intervention on reproduction and they have explored reproductive options;
   v. Other possible causes of apparent gender incongruence have been identified and excluded;
   vi. Mental health and physical conditions that could negatively impact the outcome of gender-affirming surgical intervention have been assessed, with risks and benefits have been discussed;
C. The health plan may require a second opinion regarding the patient's stability prior to surgery if in question; and
D. Stable on their gender affirming hormonal treatment regime (which may include at least 6 months of hormone treatment or a longer period if required to achieve the desired surgical result, unless hormone therapy is either not desired or is medically contraindicated); and
E. Twelve months of living in a gender role that is congruent with their gender identity (real life experience) Patient has undergone social transition*** and has been living in gender congruent identity for at least twelve months

Note: Orchiectomy procedure may be subject to Elective Surgical Procedures Level of Care review in addition to the above clinical criteria being met.

V. **Gender affirming voice modification surgery**

Otolaryngology credentials are preferred for gender affirming voice modification surgery. Gender affirming voice modification surgery may be medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

A. Pitch lowering surgery (e.g., Type III thyroplasty) is considered medically necessary if the voice fails to deepen below speaking F0 150Hz after 1.5 years of consistent masculinization hormone therapy

OR

B. Pitch elevation surgery is considered medically necessary when speaking $F_0 < 150$ Hz

AND

A. **ALL of the following** are met**:**

i. Age 18 years of age or older
ii. The health plan may require a second opinion regarding the patient's stability prior to surgery if in question; and
iii. Patient has already undergone social transition*** or has a plan to do so after surgery
iv. Stable on their gender affirming hormonal treatment regime (which may include at least 6 months of hormone treatment or a longer period if required to achieve the desired surgical result, unless hormone therapy is either not desired or is medically contraindicated)
v. Single letter of referral from a qualified mental health professional** in support of the requested procedure(s) in the last 18 months; and the letter should include:
   - Gender incongruence is marked and sustained;
   - Meets diagnostic criteria for gender incongruence prior to gender-affirming surgical

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intervention in regions where a diagnosis is necessary to access health care;
- Demonstrates capacity to consent for the specific gender-affirming surgical intervention;
- Understands the effect of gender-affirming surgical intervention on reproduction and they have explored reproductive options;
- Other possible causes of apparent gender incongruence have been identified and excluded;
- Mental health and physical conditions that could negatively impact the outcome of gender-affirming surgical intervention have been assessed, with risks and benefits have been discussed;

vi. Established with a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) with experience working with Transgender patients for voice therapy and has engaged with voice therapy techniques with consistent follow-up, documented as attendance at ≥ 75% of sessions for at least 6 months

vii. Voice/speech therapy has been ineffective – member has ongoing voice complaints including inability to reliably maintain speaking F0 above 150 Hz (feminizing) or speaking F0 below 150Hz (masculinizing)

viii. Member agrees to follow-up post-operatively with their surgeon and voice therapist/SLP on a regular cadence (1 week, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, 2 years, etc.)

ix. Patient has none of the following contraindications:
- No active laryngeal pathology, except for muscle tension
- No medical diagnoses that would impair wound healing
- No medical diagnoses that would seriously impair breathing or swallowing
- No planned upcoming surgeries within 2 months after pitch modification surgery

VI. **Gender affirming facial surgery**– Plastic Surgery, Otolaryngology, or Occuplastics (in the case of blepharoplasty) credentials are preferred for gender affirming facial surgery. Gender affirming facial surgery may be medically necessary when **ALL of the following** criteria are met

A. Member is at least 18 years old; and

B. One referral letter from a qualified mental health professional** in the last 18 months; and this letter should include:

i. Gender incongruence is marked and sustained
ii. Meets diagnostic criteria for gender incongruence prior to gender-affirming surgical intervention in regions where a diagnosis is necessary to access health care;
iii. Demonstrates capacity to consent for the specific gender-affirming surgical intervention;
iv. Understands the effect of gender-affirming surgical intervention on reproduction and they have explored reproductive options;
v. Other possible causes of apparent gender incongruence have been identified and excluded;
vi. Mental health and physical conditions that could negatively impact the outcome of gender-affirming surgical intervention have been assessed, with risks and benefits have been discussed;

C. Twelve months of living in a gender role that is congruent with their gender identity (real life experience) Patient has undergone social transition*** and has been living in gender congruent identity for at least twelve months

With regard to requested gender affirming facial surgery– must meet **ALL** of the following:

D. For each requested procedure, documentation from an ABMS board-certified facial surgeon (Facial Plastic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, or Oral Maxillofacial Surgery) that the member experiences dysphoria specifically associated with that facial element is required (e.g., documentation of dysphoria related to a stereotypically masculine nose for a requested rhinoplasty); AND

E. The goal of each procedure is to alter or reshape the facial feature to an appearance that is within the range of normal for the member's identified gender, as determined by an ABMS board-certified facial surgeon (Facial Plastic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, or Oral Maxillofacial Surgery)

Procedures for gender affirming facial surgery may include (but are not limited to): mandible contouring, brow lift, and forehead reduction, layrngochrondroplasty among others. See below for a list of common procedures* which may or may not be covered for a particular patient.

Procedures intended solely to reduce the appearance of aging that will not result in significant improvement of

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the condition being treated are considered not medically necessary.

*Procedures considered for gender affirming facial surgery when medical necessity criteria in the applicable policy statement listed above are met – this list represents common procedures; others will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis:

Typically covered:

- Brow lift
- Hairline advancement
- Lip lift
- Mandible contouring
- Forehead reduction and contouring
- Tracheal Shave

Sometimes covered:

- Rhinoplasty

Typically not covered:

- Blepharoplasty
- Lip augmentation
- Cheek implants
- Facelift

VII. **Gender affirming body contouring procedures**

*Plastic Surgery credentials are preferred for gender affirming body contouring. Gender affirming body contouring may be medically necessary when **ALL of the following** criteria are met*:

A. Age 18 years or older
B. Single letter of referral from a qualified mental health professional** within the last 18 months ; and this letter should include:
    i. Gender incongruence is marked and sustained;
    ii. Meets diagnostic criteria for gender incongruence prior to gender-affirming surgical intervention in regions where a diagnosis is necessary to access health care;
    iii. Demonstrates capacity to consent for the specific gender-affirming surgical intervention;
    iv. Understands the effect of gender-affirming surgical intervention on reproduction and they have explored reproductive options;
    v. Other possible causes of apparent gender incongruence have been identified and excluded;
    vi. Mental health and physical conditions that could negatively impact the outcome of gender-affirming surgical intervention have been assessed, with risks and benefits have been discussed;
C. Twelve months of living in a gender role that is congruent with their gender identity (real life experience). Patient has undergone social transition*** and has been living in gender congruent identity for at least twelve months.
D. The request is for gender-affirming body contouring performed by a surgeon with experience in gender health to target areas that affect gender perception for **ONE of the following:**
    i. For patients on the transmasculine spectrum, this includes liposuction to the hips and thighs; OR
    ii. For patients on the transfeminine spectrum, this includes liposuction to the waist, sides and back of your abdomen (flanks). There may also be fat grafting to the hips and buttock
E. Unless medically contraindicated, the patient has completed at least 12 months of continuous hormone therapy as appropriate to the members gender goals, to allow stable body fat redistribution to occur
F. Patient has a stable BMI between 20-30, as surgery is most likely to be successful in this BMI range
G. The request is not to alter/augment the appearance of body areas that are within the normal range for the patient's gender identity (using implants or fat transfer)
H. The request is not for cosmetic purposes only - procedure must affirm gender identity
I. The request is not for liposuction to the belly or flanks alone as this is considered a cosmetic procedure
J. The request is not for any areas that require skin removal. Some procedures that require skin removal are considered cosmetic. They are not related to gender identity and are not gender-affirming body contouring procedures. Examples include:
    - Abdominoplasty ("tummy tuck")
    - Brachioplasty (arm lift)
    - Thigh Lift

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VIII. The following Procedures are **not covered** as part of this benefit:

- Abdominoplasty
- Calf implants
- Collagen injections

K. Cryopreservation of fertilized embryos

- Drugs for hair loss or growth
- Facials
- Hair implant
- Mastopexy
- Neck tightening
- Pectoral implants
- Reversal of prior genital surgery or reversal of surgery to revise secondary sex characteristics
- Sperm preservation in advance of hormone treatment or gender surgery
- Ultrasonic Assisted Lymphatic Massage
- All other cosmetic procedures that do not meet medical necessity

**Characteristics of a Qualified Mental Health Professional for:

1. Master's degree or equivalent in a clinical behavioral science field granted by an institution accredited by the appropriate national accrediting board. The professional should also have documented credentials from the relevant licensing board or equivalent; and
2. Competence in using the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and/or the International Classification of Disease for diagnostic purposes; and
3. Ability to recognize and diagnose co-existing mental health concerns and to distinguish these from gender dysphoria;
4. Knowledgeable about gender nonconforming identities and expressions, and the assessment and treatment of gender dysphoria; and
5. Continuing education in the assessment and treatment of gender dysphoria. This may include attending relevant professional meetings, workshops, or seminars; obtaining supervision from a mental health professional with relevant experience; or participating in research related to gender nonconformity and gender dysphoria.

***Social Transition: (e.g., name change, pronoun change, communication of affirmed gender identity to others) in place or judged by clinician to be unnecessary (e.g., nonbinary gender identity). This requirement is based on evidence of mental health benefits from social transition and lack of evidence to support gender affirming surgical therapy in the absence of social transition. Coverage may still be considered after additional mental health evaluation and/or explanation of not pursuing social transition.

The following information was used in the development of this document and is provided as background only. It is provided for historical purposes and does not necessarily reflect the most current published literature. When significant new articles are published that impact treatment option, Kaiser Permanente will review as needed. This information is not to be used as coverage criteria. Please only refer to the criteria listed above for coverage determinations.

Background

Gender Dysphoria refers to discomfort or distress that is caused by a discrepancy between a person's gender identity and that person's sex assigned at birth. Gender dysphoria is only experienced by some gender-nonconforming people.

Transgender individuals usually present to the medical profession with a sophisticated understanding of their identity, and a desired course of treatment, including hormone therapy and potentially gender-realignment surgery. The therapeutic approach to gender dysphoria consists of three elements: hormones, real life experience and, finally, surgery for some patients.

The use of hormone therapy and surgery for gender transition/affirmation is based on many years of experience treating transgender people. Research on hormone therapy is providing us with more and more information on the safety and efficacy of hormone therapy, but all of the long-term consequences and effects of hormone therapy may not be fully understood. Therefore, a careful diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and exploration of identity is absolutely vital to the patient's best interest and the patient provider relationship. A vital part of the long-term

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diagnostic therapy is the so-called real-life experience, in which the patient lives as a member of the desired gender continually and in all social spheres in order to accumulate necessary experience.

Hormone therapy and gender-realignment surgery are superficial changes in comparison to the major psychological adjustments necessary in affirming gender identity. One aspect of treatment should concentrate on the psychological adjustment, with hormone therapy and gender-realignment surgery being viewed as confirmatory procedures dependent on adequate psychological adjustment. Many providers and organizations are moving to an informed consent model for hormones, but surgery still needs involvement of psychology and psychiatry. Psychiatric care may need to be continued for many years after gender-realignment surgery. The overall success of treatment depends partly on the technical success of the surgery, but more crucially on the psychological adjustment of the patient, and the support from family, friends, employers and the medical profession.

Evidence and Source Documents

There was no evidence review conducted for these criteria. They were developed in response to the Washington State RCW for the coverage of gender affirming services.

Interregional New Technologies Committee

Voice Surgery for Transgender Females
INTC Review: June 4, 2021
Evidence Conclusion:
The body of evidence evaluating the effectiveness and safety of voice surgery in transgender women (male-to-female) is very low-quality. For efficacy, outcomes demonstrated benefit for acoustic measures, and quality of life/patient satisfaction. For safety, very few complications were reported, and none were major or life-threatening. However, it is difficult to draw definitive conclusions because the majority of studies are methodologically poor, with high risk of bias, and the confidence in the findings of these studies is limited. Most studies are pre-post, and there is only one non-randomized, comparative study. The quality of studies is further limited by small sample size, short-term follow-up, heterogeneity in patient characteristics, and variation in surgical technique and vocal rest time. Variation in lack of standardization for measuring outcomes also increases risk of bias. Use of concomitant voice therapy in some studies may have introduced confounding, which could have artificially inflated efficacy measures. Future comparative studies with stringent inclusion/exclusion criteria, larger sample sizes, longer follow-up, and standardized outcome measures will clarify these findings.

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Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People, 8th Version. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)

Wylie C Hembree, Peggy T Cohen-Kettenis, Louis Gooren, Sabine E Hannema, Walter J Meyer, M Hassan Murad, Stephen M Rosenthal, Joshua D Safer, Vin Tangpricha, Guy G T'Sjoen, Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline, The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, Volume 102, Issue 11, 1 November 2017, Pages 3869–3903, https://doi.org/10.1210/jc.2017-01658

Applicable Codes (not all-inclusive) – all requests require clinical review

Members Assigned Male at Birth:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
55970	Intersex Surgery; male to female
15830	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); abdomen, infraumbilical panniculectomy
	With diagnosis codes
F64.0	Transsexualism
F64.1	Dual role transvestism
F64.2	Gender identity disorder of childhood
F64.8	Other gender identity disorders
F64.9	Gender identity disorder, unspecified

Members Assigned Female at Birth:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
55980	Intersex Surgery; female to male
	With diagnosis codes
F64.0	Transsexualism
F64.1	Dual role transvestism
F64.2	Gender identity disorder of childhood
F64.8	Other gender identity disorders
F64.9	Gender identity disorder, unspecified

Electrolysis:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
17380	Electrolysis epilation, each 30 minutes

Gender Affirming Facial Surgery

Forehead Recontouring/Augmentation:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
21137	Reduction forehead; contouring only
21138	Reduction forehead; contouring and application of prosthetic material or bone graft (includes obtaining autograft)
21139	Reduction forehead; contouring and setback of anterior frontal sinus wall

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Brow Lift:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
15824	Rhytidectomy; forehead
67900	Repair of brow ptosis (supraciliary, mid-forehead or coronal approach)

Hairline Correction/Scalp Advancement:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
15839	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); other area

Jaw Contouring:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
21299	Unlisted craniofacial and maxillofacial procedure
21209	Osteoplasty, facial bones; reduction

Body Contouring:

CPT® Codes	Description
15771	Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to trunk, breasts, scalp, arms, and/or legs; 50 cc or less injectate
15772	Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to trunk, breasts, scalp, arms, and/or legs; each additional 50 cc injectate, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
15773	Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to face, eyelids, mouth, neck, ears, orbits, genitalia, hands, and/or feet; 25 cc or less injectate
15774	Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to face, eyelids, mouth, neck, ears, orbits, genitalia, hands, and/or feet; each additional 25 cc injectate, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
15830	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); abdomen, infraumbilical panniculectomy
15832	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); thigh
15833	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); leg
15834	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); hip
15835	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); buttock
15836	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); arm
15837	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); forearm or hand
15838	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); submental fat pad
15839	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); other area
15847	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy), abdomen (e.g., abdominoplasty) (includes umbilical transposition and fascial plication) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
15876	Suction assisted lipectomy; head and neck
15877	Suction assisted lipectomy; trunk
15878	Suction assisted lipectomy; upper extremity
15879	Suction assisted lipectomy; lower extremity

Chin Augmentation:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
21120	Genioplasty; augmentation (autograft, allograft, prosthetic material)
21121	Genioplasty; sliding osteotomy, single piece
21122	Genioplasty; sliding osteotomies, 2 or more osteotomies (e.g., wedge excision or bone wedge reversal for asymmetrical chin)

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21123	Genioplasty; sliding, augmentation with interpositional bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts)
21296	Reduction of masseter muscle and bone (e.g., for treatment of benign masseteric hypertrophy); intraoral approach

Fat Transfer:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
15773	Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to face, eyelids, mouth, neck, ears, orbits, genitalia, hands, and/or feet; 25 cc or less injectate
15774	Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to face, eyelids, mouth, neck, ears, orbits, genitalia, hands, and/or feet; each additional 25 cc injectate, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

Rhinoplasty:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
30400	Rhinoplasty, primary; lateral and alar cartilages and/or elevation of nasal tip
30410	Rhinoplasty, primary; complete, external parts including bony pyramid, lateral and alar cartilages, and/or elevation of nasal tip
30420	Rhinoplasty, primary; including major septal repair
30430	Rhinoplasty, secondary; minor revision (small amount of nasal tip work)
30435	Rhinoplasty, secondary; intermediate revision (bony work with osteotomies)
30450	Rhinoplasty, secondary; major revision (nasal tip work and osteotomies)

Blepharoplasty:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
15820	Blepharoplasty, lower eyelid;
15821	Blepharoplasty, lower eyelid; with extensive herniated fat pad
15822	Blepharoplasty, upper eyelid;
15823	Blepharoplasty, upper eyelid; with excessive skin weighting down lid

Dermal Filler:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
11950	Subcutaneous injection of filling material (eg, collagen); 1 cc or less
11951	Subcutaneous injection of filling material (e.g., collagen); 1.1 to 5.0 cc
11952	Subcutaneous injection of filling material (e.g., collagen); 5.1 to 10.0 cc
11954	Subcutaneous injection of filling material (e.g., collagen); over 10.0 cc

Suction Assisted Lipectomy:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
15876	Suction assisted lipectomy; head and neck

Rhytidectomy:

CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
15829	Rhytidectomy; superficial musculoaponeurotic system (SMAS) flap
15838	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); submental fat pad

Voice Modification Surgery

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CPT® or HCPC Codes	Description
No specific codes – *commonly submitted with CPT code 31599 Unlisted procedure, larynx*	

***Note:** Codes list is not all-inclusive. Deleted codes and codes not in effect at the time of service may not be covered.

****To verify authorization requirements for a specific code by plan type, please use the **Pre-authorization Code Check.**

Date Created	Date Reviewed	Date Last Revised
12/15/2010	01/04/2011 MDCRPC ,11/01/2011 MDCRPC, 09/04/2012 MDCRPC, 07/02/2013 MDCRPC, 05/06/2014 MPC, 11/04/2014MPC, 09/01/2015MPC, 07/05/2016MPC, 03/06/2018MPC, 02/05/2019MPC, 02/04/2020MPC, 02/02/2021MPC , 02/01/2022MPC, 02/07/2023MPC, 07/02/2024MPC	02/04/2025

MDCRPC Medical Director Clinical Review and Policy Committee
MPC Medical Policy Committee

Revision History	Description
11/2/2015	Added Providence Health & Services and link to Sound Health & Wellness Policy & ICD-10 codes
03/08/2016	Added PEBB link
09/02/2016	Added FtM Mastectomy criteria for adolescents 16 years and older
11/01/2016	MPC approved revised indication for Electrolysis
10/02/2017	Removed the requirement for testosterone treatment for members 16-18
02/06/2018	Added criteria for M-F breast augmentation
05/01/2018	Added facials and ultrasonic assisted lymphatic massage to the non-covered list
06/05/2018	Changed the mastectomy and breast augmentation criteria
06/11/2018	Added coverage language for facial hair removal
07/10/2018	Added coverage and revised criteria language for facial hair removal
10/02/2018	Updated evaluation criteria under genital reconstructive surgery requirements
12/04/2018	Added MtF criteria to add coverage for Layrngochrondroplasty (Tracheal Shave)
04/12/2019	Added Mons Resection code to genital reconstructive surgery
01/22/2020	Minor changes to Facial Hair removal criteria
05/4/2020	Added the following procedures to section V “Requirements for genital reconstruction surgery”: vulvectomy, colpocleisis and perineoplasty
12/18/2020	MPC approved to adopt clinical criteria for Facial Harmonization and updated exclusions for the non-covered list.
02/19/2021	Included non-binary patients for facial hair removal and mastectomy indications.
10/04/2021	Updated terminology from female to male and male to female to assigned male at birth or assigned female at birth.
03/01/2022	MPC approved changes to criteria for hair removal, including the addition of criteria for coverage of body hair removal and updates to facial hair removal criteria.
04/05/2022	MPC approved to adopt coverage for voice modification surgery.
05/02/2023	Updated self-funded SHWT policy coverage details statement
05/08/2023	Updated additional exclusions provided by SHWT
06/06/2023	MPC has approved revisions to the clinical criteria for Gender Affirming Services, ensuring alignment with the updated guidelines from the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). Requires 60-day notice, effective date 11/01/2023
12/04/2023	Effective 12/5/2023 Orchiectomy procedure may be subject to Elective Surgical Procedure Level of Care Review
10/01/2024	MPC approved the adoption of proposed changes to the Gender Affirming Services criteria for body contouring; 60-day notice required. Effective March 1, 2025. Updated references.
02/04/2025	MPC approved to endorse credentialing preferences for Mastectomy, Breast Augmentation, Gonadectomy/Genital Reconstruction, Voice Modification, Facial Surgery, and Body Contouring. 60-day notice is not required.

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02/04/2025	MPC approved the proposed updates to Breast Augmentation Criteria concerning “Gender Affirming Hormonal Treatment Regime.” 60-day notice required; effective July 1, 2025.

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