

Clinical Policy: Gender-Affirming Procedures

Reference Number: PA.CP.MP.95

Plan Effective Date: 01/2018

Date of Last Revision: 07/2024

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

Description

Services for gender affirmation most often include hormone treatment, counseling, psychotherapy, complete hysterectomy, bilateral mastectomy, chest reconstruction or augmentation as appropriate, genital reconstruction, facial hair removal, and certain facial plastic reconstruction. Not every individual will require each intervention, so necessity needs to be considered on an individualized basis. The criteria in this policy outline the medical necessity criteria for gender-affirming medical and surgical treatment (GAMST) *when such services are included under the member/enrollee's benefit plan contract provisions.*

Policy/Criteria

- I. It is the policy of PA Health & Wellness that gender-affirming surgeries are considered **medically necessary** for members/enrollees when diagnosed with gender dysphoria or gender incongruence per section A. and when meeting the eligibility criteria in section B.

Note: Intersex individuals are not subject to the criteria in this policy.

A. Gender Dysphoria or Gender Incongruence Criteria:

1. Marked and sustained incongruence between the member/enrollee's experienced/expressed gender and assigned gender, as *indicated by two or more* of the following:
 - a. Marked incongruence between the member/enrollee's experienced/expressed gender and primary and/or secondary sex characteristics;
 - b. A strong desire to be rid of one's primary and/or secondary sex characteristics because of a marked incongruence with one's experienced/expressed gender;
 - c. A strong desire for the primary and/or secondary sex characteristics of the other gender;
 - d. A strong desire to be of the other gender (or some alternative gender different from one's assigned gender);
 - e. A strong desire to be treated as the other gender (or some alternative gender different from one's assigned gender);
 - f. A strong conviction that one has the typical feelings and reactions of the other gender (or some alternative gender different from one's assigned gender);
 - g. The condition is associated with impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning;

B. Eligibility criteria, all of the following:

1. Capacity to make a fully informed decision (including, but not limited to, awareness of the potential effects of treatment on fertility) and to consent for treatment;
2. If significant medical or mental health concerns are present, they are reasonably well controlled;

3. Other possible causes of apparent gender dysphoria, gender incongruence, or gender diversity have been identified and excluded;
4. Minimum of one written statement with signature recommending gender-affirming medical and surgical treatment (GAMST) from a health care provider competent to independently assess and diagnose gender incongruence;
5. One of the following:
 - a. For members \geq 18 years, all of the following:
 - i. Assessment for GAMST from a provider who meets both of the following:
 - a) Has experience in or is qualified to assess clinical aspects of gender dysphoria, incongruence, and diversity (e.g., mental health professional, general medical practitioner, nurse, or other qualified health care provider);
 - b) Is licensed by their statutory body and hold, at a minimum, a master's degree in a clinical field related to transgender health or equivalent further clinical training and be statutorily regulated;
 - ii. The documented assessment for GAMST meets all of the following:
 - a) Identifies any mental or physical health conditions that could negatively impact the outcome of GAMST, with risks and benefits discussed;
 - b) Notes the member/enrollee's capacity to understand the effect of GAMST on reproduction and includes a discussion of reproductive options with the member/enrollee prior to the initiation of GAMST;
 - iii. Member/enrollee remains stable on their gender affirming hormonal treatment regime (which may include at least six months of hormone treatment or longer if required to achieve the desired surgical result, unless hormone therapy is either not desired or is medically contraindicated);
 - b. For members/enrollees $<$ 18 years all of the following:
 - i. Demonstrates the emotional and cognitive maturity required to provide informed consent/assent for the treatment;
 - ii. Has reached Tanner stage 2;
 - iii. Member/enrollee has been informed of the reproductive effects of GAMST, including the potential loss of fertility and the available options to preserve fertility, and these have been discussed in the context of the adolescent's stage of pubertal development;
 - iv. Member/enrollee has completed a minimum of 12 months of gender-affirming hormone therapy or longer, if required, to achieve the desired surgical result for gender-affirming procedures, including breast augmentation, orchiectomy, vaginoplasty, hysterectomy, phalloplasty, metoidioplasty, and facial surgery as part of gender-affirming treatment unless hormone therapy is either not desired or is medically contraindicated;
 - v. Assessment for GAMST from a provider who meets both of the following:
 - a) Has experience in or is qualified to assess clinical aspects of gender dysphoria, incongruence, and diversity (e.g., mental health professional, general medical practitioner, nurse, or other qualified health care provider);
 - b) Is licensed by their statutory body and hold, at a minimum, a master's degree in a clinical field related to transgender health or equivalent further clinical training and be statutorily regulated;

CLINICAL POLICY
Gender-Affirming Procedures

- C. Gender-affirming surgeries considered medically necessary when meeting above criteria and additional criteria as listed below for specific procedures:
1. For members/enrollees age < 18 years, any of the following:
 - a. One of the following procedures is requested:
 - i. Penectomy;
 - ii. Urethroplasty;
 - iii. Mammoplasty;
 - iv. Mastectomy, and the member/enrollee has been assessed for risk factors associated with breast cancer;
 - v. Clitoroplasty;
 - vi. Vulvoplasty;
 - vii. Labiaplasty;
 - viii. Vaginectomy;
 - ix. Vulvectomy;
 - x. Scrotoplasty;
 - xi. Testicular prosthesis;
 - b. Twelve months of hormone therapy has been administered (unless hormone therapy is not desired or is medically contraindicated), and one of the following procedures has been requested:
 - i. Breast augmentation, and the member/enrollee has been assessed for risk factors associated with breast cancer;
 - ii. Phalloplasty;
 - iii. Metoidioplasty;
 - iv. Vaginoplasty;
 - v. Gonadectomy (i.e., hysterectomy, orchiectomy);
 2. For members/enrollees \geq 18 years of age, any of the following:
 - a. Penectomy;
 - b. Urethroplasty;
 - c. Mammoplasty;
 - d. Mastectomy, and the member/enrollee has been assessed for risk factors associated with breast cancer;
 - e. Clitoroplasty;
 - f. Vulvoplasty;
 - g. Labiaplasty;
 - h. Vaginectomy;
 - i. Vulvectomy;
 - j. Scrotoplasty;
 - k. Testicular prosthesis;
 - l. Breast augmentation, and the member/enrollee has been assessed for risk factors associated with breast cancer;
 - m. Phalloplasty;
 - n. Metoidioplasty;
 - o. Vaginoplasty;

CLINICAL POLICY

Gender-Affirming Procedures

- p. Gonadectomy (i.e., hysterectomy, salpingo-oophorectomy, orchiectomy; at least six months of hormone therapy may be considered prior to procedure, as appropriate for the member/enrollee's goals).
- II.** It is the policy of PHW that gender affirming facial procedures will be considered for medical necessity on a case-by-case basis when meeting the following:
- A. Criteria has been met in section I.A. and I.B.;
- B. Requested procedure intends to correct existing facial appearance that demonstrates significant variation from standard appearance for the experienced gender. For members/enrollees <18 years, 12 months of hormone therapy is required prior to facial surgery as part of gender-affirming treatment unless hormone therapy is either not desired or medically contraindicated. Possible procedures include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Blepharoplasty;
 2. Face lift/mid-face lift/brow lift;
 3. Facial implants and bone reconstruction;
 4. Hair removal/electrolysis;
 5. Drugs for hair loss or growth;
 6. Hair transplantation or hairline advancement;
 7. Prosthetic or filler substances to alter contour;
 8. Rhinoplasty;
 9. Thyroid chondroplasty;
 10. Removal of redundant skin;
 11. Upper lip shortening and lip augmentation;
 12. Chondrolaryngoplasty;
 13. Voice modification surgery, therapy, or lessons.
- III.** It is the policy of PHW that revision procedures for affirming gender are **medically necessary** when the revision is required to address complications of a prior gender affirming procedure (wound dehiscence, fistula, chronic pain directly related to the surgery, etc.).
- IV.** It is the policy of PHW that the following procedures, when used to improve the gender specific appearance of a member/enrollee undergoing gender affirmation are **not medically necessary**, as they are considered cosmetic in nature (not an all-inclusive list):
- Abdominoplasty
 - Liposuction
 - Skin resurfacing
 - Mastopexy
 - Revision procedures for purposes other than correction of complications.
- V.** It is the policy of PHW that detransition procedures by gender-related hormone intervention, surgical intervention, or both, will be considered for medical necessity on a case-by-case basis.

Background

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) is an international professional society dedicated to promoting the highest level of evidence-based principles for transgender and gender diverse (TGD) individuals.¹ Gender identity is a person's deepest inner sense of being female or male, which for many is established by the age of two through three years. *Gender nonconformity* refers to the extent to which a person's gender identity, role, or expression differs from the cultural norms prescribed for people of a particular sex.² *Gender dysphoria* refers to the discomfort or distress that is caused by a discrepancy between a person's gender identity and that person's sex assigned at birth (and the associated gender role and/or primary and secondary sex characteristics).^{2,3} Per WPATH, the focus of gender dysphoria is not on the individual's gender identity, but on any of the distress or discomfort related to being TGD.¹ WPATH states that gender incongruence is considered a condition with a focus on the TGD person's experienced identity and any need for gender-affirming treatment that arises from this identity.¹

Treatment to assist people with gender dysphoria is available and can help to find the gender identity and role that is comfortable for them. Treatment is very individualized and may or may not involve gender-affirming surgery or body modification. Treatment options include changes in gender expression and role; hormone therapy to feminize or masculinize the body; surgery to change primary and/or secondary sex characteristics; and psychotherapy. Many people who receive treatment for gender dysphoria will find a gender role and expression that is comfortable for them, regardless of whether they differ from the sex assigned to them at birth.

WPATH's Standards of Care (SOC) are a series of flexible guidelines for clinical practice published by the society and are based on evidence and expert consensus.¹ Version 8 of WPATH's SOC were published in 2022, and these guidelines offer clinical guidance to health care professionals caring for TGD people and are intended to be adaptable to meet the diverse health care needs of this population.¹

WPATH recommends that the assessment for gender-affirming medical and surgical treatment (GAMST) in individuals < 18 years old be completed by a provider who is licensed by their statutory body and hold a postgraduate degree or its equivalent in a clinical field relevant to this role granted by a nationally accredited statutory institution. The provider(s) working with gender diverse adolescents should additionally meet all of the following¹:

1. Receive theoretical and evidenced-based training and develop expertise in general child, adolescent, and family mental health across the developmental spectrum;
2. Receive training and have expertise in gender identity development, gender diversity in children and adolescents, have the ability to assess capacity to assent/consent, and possess general knowledge of gender diversity across the life span;
3. Receive training and develop expertise in autism spectrum disorders and other neurodevelopmental presentations or collaborate with a developmental disability expert when working with autistic/neurodivergent gender diverse adolescents;
4. Continue engaging in professional development in all areas relevant to gender diverse children, adolescents, and families;

5. Complete a comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment of the adolescent member/enrollee presenting with gender identity-related concerns and seek medical/surgical transition-related care in a collaborative and supportive manner;
6. Maintain an ongoing relationship with the gender diverse and transgender adolescent member/enrollee and any relevant caregivers to support the adolescent in their decision-making throughout the duration of puberty suppression treatment, hormonal treatment, and gender-related surgery until the transition is made to adult care;
7. Involve parent(s)/guardian(s) in the GAMST assessment and treatment process, unless their involvement is determined to be harmful to the adolescent or not feasible;
8. Involve relevant disciplines, including mental health and medical professionals, to reach a decision about whether puberty suppression, hormone initiation, or gender-related surgery for gender diverse and transgender adolescents are appropriate and remain indicated throughout the course of treatment until the transition is made to adult care.

WPATH recommends that the assessment for GAMST in adults ≥ 18 years of age be completed by a provider who is licensed by their statutory body and hold, at a minimum, a master's degree in a clinical field related to transgender health or equivalent further clinical training and be statutorily regulated (e.g., mental health professional, general medical practitioner, nurse, or other qualified health care provider). The provider(s) working with gender diverse adults should additionally meet all of the following¹:

1. Identify co-existing mental health or other psychosocial concerns, distinguishing these from gender dysphoria, incongruence, and diversity;
2. Assess capacity to consent for treatment (capacity to consent is required for GAMST assessment);
3. Have experience or is qualified to assess clinical aspects of gender dysphoria, incongruence, and diversity and is able to liaise with professionals from different disciplines within the field of transgender health for consultation and referral, if required;
4. Identify and exclude other possible causes of apparent gender incongruence prior to the initiation of gender-affirming treatments;
5. Ensure any mental or physical health conditions that could negatively impact the outcome of GAMSTs are assessed, with risks and benefits discussed, before a decision is made regarding treatment;
6. Assess the member/enrollee's capacity to understand the effect of GAMST on reproduction and discuss reproduction options with the member/enrollee prior to the initiation of GAMST;
7. Assess and discuss the role of social transition with the member/enrollee requesting GAMST.

Coding Implications

This clinical policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2023, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage.

Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

CPT codes that may be considered part of gender-affirming surgery.

This code list does not indicate if a procedure is or is not considered medically necessary.

CPT® Codes	Description
11950-11954	Subcutaneous injection of filling material (eg, collagen)
11960	Insertion of tissue expander(s) for other than breast, including subsequent expansion
11970	Replacement of tissue expander with permanent implant
14000	Adjacent tissue transfer or rearrangement, trunk; defect 10 sq cm or less
14001	Adjacent tissue transfer or rearrangement, trunk; defect 10.1 sq cm to 30.0 sq cm
14040	Adjacent tissue transfer or rearrangement, forehead, cheeks, chin, mouth, neck, axillae, genitalia, hands and/or feet; defect 10 sq cm or less
14041	Adjacent tissue transfer or rearrangement, forehead, cheeks, chin, mouth, neck, axillae, genitalia, hands and/or feet; defect 10.1 sq cm to 30.0 sq cm
15100	Split-thickness autograft, trunk, arms, legs; first 100 sq cm or less, or 1% of body area of infants and children (except 15050)
15101	Split-thickness autograft, trunk, arms, legs; each additional 100 sq cm, or each additional 1% of body area of infants and children, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
15120	Split-thickness autograft, face, scalp, eyelids, mouth, neck, ears, orbits, genitalia, hands, feet, and/or multiple digits; first 100 sq cm or less, or 1% of body area of infants and children (except 15050)
15121	Split-thickness autograft, face, scalp, eyelids, mouth, neck, ears, orbits, genitalia, hands, feet, and/or multiple digits; each additional 100 sq cm, or each additional 1% of body area of infants and children, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
15200	Full thickness graft, free, including direct closure of donor site, trunk; 20 sq cm or less
15570	Formation of direct or tubed pedicle, with or without transfer; trunk
15574	Formation of direct or tubed pedicle, with or without transfer; forehead, cheeks, chin, mouth, neck, axillae, genitalia, hands or feet
15600	Delay of flap or sectioning of flap (division and inset); at trunk
15620	Delay of flap or sectioning of flap (division and inset); at forehead, cheeks, chin, neck, axillae, genitalia, hands, or feet
15757	Free skin flap with microvascular anastomosis
15758	Free fascial flap with microvascular anastomosis
15775	Punch graft for hair transplant; 1 to 15 punch grafts
15776	Punch graft for hair transplant; more than 15 punch grafts
15780-15783	Dermabrasion
15786	Abrasion; single lesion (eg, keratosis, scar)

15787	Abrasion; each additional 4 lesions or less (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
15788	Chemical peel, facial; epidermal
15789	Chemical peel, facial; dermal
15792	Chemical peel, nonfacial; epidermal
15793	Chemical peel, nonfacial; dermal
15820-15823	Blepharoplasty
15824	Rhytidectomy; forehead
15825	Rhytidectomy; neck with platysmal tightening (platysmal flap, P-flap)
15826	Rhytidectomy; glabellar frown lines
15828	Rhytidectomy; cheek, chin, and neck
15829	Rhytidectomy; superficial musculoaponeurotic system (SMAS) flap
15830	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); abdomen, infraumbilical panniculectomy
15832-15839	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy)
15876-15879	Suction assisted lipectomy
17380	Electrolysis epilation, each 30 minutes
19303	Mastectomy, simple, complete
19316	Mastopexy
19318	Breast reduction
19325	Breast augmentation with implant
19350	Nipple/areola reconstruction
21120	Genioplasty; augmentation (autograft, allograft, prosthetic material)
21121	Genioplasty; sliding osteotomy, single piece
21122	Genioplasty; sliding osteotomies, 2 or more osteotomies (eg, wedge excision or bone wedge reversal for asymmetrical chin)
21123	Genioplasty; sliding, augmentation with interpositional bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts)
21125	Augmentation, mandibular body or angle; prosthetic material
21127	Augmentation, mandibular body or angle; with bone graft, onlay or interpositional (includes obtaining autograft)
21208	Osteoplasty, facial bones; augmentation (autograft, allograft, or prosthetic implant)
21209	Osteoplasty, facial bones; reduction
21210	Graft, bone; nasal, maxillary or malar areas (includes obtaining graft)
21270	Malar augmentation, prosthetic material
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)

31599	Unlisted procedure, larynx
31899	Unlisted procedure, trachea, bronchi
53410	Urethroplasty, 1-stage reconstruction of male anterior urethra
53415	Urethroplasty, transpubic or perineal, 1-stage, for reconstruction or repair of prostatic or membranous urethra
53420	Urethroplasty, 2-stage reconstruction or repair of prostatic or membranous urethra; first stage
53425	Urethroplasty, 2-stage reconstruction or repair of prostatic or membranous urethra; second stage
53430	Urethroplasty reconstruction female urethra
53460	Urethromeatoplasty, with partial excision of distal urethral segment (Richardson type procedure)
54125	Amputation of penis; complete
54400	Insertion of penile prosthesis; non-inflatable (semi-rigid)
54401	Insertion of penile prosthesis; inflatable (self-contained)
54405	Insertion of multi-component, inflatable penile prosthesis, including placement of pump, cylinders, and reservoir
54406	Removal of all components of a multi-component, inflatable penile prosthesis without replacement of prosthesis
54408	Repair of component(s) of a multi-component, inflatable penile prosthesis
54410	Removal and replacement of all component(s) of a multi-component, inflatable penile prosthesis at the same operative session
54411	Removal and replacement of all components of a multi-component inflatable penile prosthesis through an infected field at the same operative session, including irrigation and debridement of infected tissue
54415	Removal of non-inflatable (semi-rigid) or inflatable (self-contained) penile prosthesis, without replacement of prosthesis
54416	Removal and replacement of non-inflatable (semi-rigid) or inflatable (self-contained) penile prosthesis at the same operative session
54417	Removal and replacement of non-inflatable (semi-rigid) or inflatable (self-contained) penile prosthesis through an infected field at the same operative session, including irrigation and debridement of infected tissue
54520	Orchiectomy simple with or without testicular prosthesis, scrotal or inguinal approach
54660	Insertion testicular prosthesis (separate procedure)
54690	Laparoscopy, surgical; orchiectomy
55175	Scrotoplasty; simple
55180	Scrotoplasty; complicated
55970	Intersex surgery; male to female
55980	Intersex surgery; female to male
56625	Vulvectomy simple; complete
56800	Plastic repair of introitus
56805	Clitoroplasty intersex state
56810	Perineoplasty, repair of perineum, nonobstetrical (separate procedure)
57106	Vaginectomy, partial removal of vaginal wall;
57107	Vaginectomy, partial removal of vaginal wall; with removal of paravaginal tissue (radical vaginectomy)

57110	Vaginectomy complete removal vaginal wall
57111	Vaginectomy, complete removal of vaginal wall; with removal of paravaginal tissue (radical vaginectomy)
57291	Construction artificial vagina; without graft
57292	Construction artificial vagina; with graft
57295	Revision (including removal) of prosthetic vaginal graft; vaginal approach
57296	Revision (including removal) of prosthetic vaginal graft; open abdominal approach
57335	Vaginoplasty intersex state
57426	Revision (including removal) of prosthetic vaginal graft, laparoscopic approach
58150	Total abdominal hysterectomy (corpus and cervix) with or without removal of tube(s), with or without removal of ovary(s)
58260	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less
58262	Vaginal hysterectomy uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary (s)
58263	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s), with repair of enterocele
58267	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with colpo-urethrocystopexy (Marshall-Marchetti-Krantz type, Pereyra type) with or without endoscopic control
58270	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with repair of enterocele
58275	Vaginal hysterectomy, with total or partial vaginectomy
58285	Vaginal hysterectomy, radical (Schauta type operation)
58290	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g
58291	Vaginal hysterectomy uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58292	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s), with repair of enterocele
58294	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with repair of enterocele
58541	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less;
58542	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58543	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g;
58544	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58550	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less
58552	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary (s)
58553	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g
58554	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58570	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less
58571	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58572	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy for uterus greater than 250 g
58573	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58661	Laparoscopy surgical; with removal of adnexal structures (partial or total oophorectomy and/or salpingectomy)
58720	Salpingo-oophorectomy, complete or partial, unilateral or bilateral (separate procedure)
58940	Oophorectomy, partial or total, unilateral or bilateral

58999	Unlisted procedure, female genital system (nonobstetrical)
64856	Suture of major peripheral nerve, arm or leg, except sciatic; including transposition
64892	Nerve graft (includes obtaining graft), single strand, arm or leg; up to 4 cm length
64896	Nerve graft (includes obtaining graft), multiple strands (cable), hand or foot; more than 4 cm length
67900	Repair of brow ptosis (supraciliary, mid-forehead or coronal approach)

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Revision Date	Approval Date
Added clitoroplasty, vulvoplasty and labiaplasty to section III.A. References reviewed and updated. Codes reviewed and updated.	10/18	
Codes reviewed and updated.	08/19	
Replaced term “gender reassignment” with “gender affirmation” throughout the policy and changed title to “Gender Affirming Procedures”. Added criteria for endometrial ablation as a medically necessary procedure for transmen. Added as not medically necessary brow lift and voice therapy/lessons. Codes reviewed (14040 corrected and 14001 and 15101 added, along with various description updates). Reviewed by specialist.	11/19	7/1/2020
Removed CPT code 19304 - code deleted 1/1/2020 Added statement that revision procedures are medically necessary when performed to correct procedure complications. Added revisions for other purposes to the cosmetic, not medically necessary list. Removed background statement that only some transgender, transsexual, and gender nonconforming people experience gender dysphoria. References reviewed and updated. Added characteristics of a mental health provider to II.F and II.G. Revised criteria in II.G to allow second referral letter from a qualified mental health provider, rather than limiting to psychologist or psychiatrist. References reviewed and updated. Description of CPT 11970, 19325 revised in 2021. CPT 19324, 58293 deleted in 2021. Replaced “participant” with “participant/enrollee/enrollee.” Added to II. D. “for genital surgery and not “top” surgery.” Added to section V. “Thyroid chondroplasty review on a case-by-case basis, and Voice modification surgery, therapy or lessons review on a case-by-case basis;” Removed “This code list does not indicate if a procedure is or is not considered medically necessary.”	6/30/2021	
Added 19318 to the list of CPT codes that may be considered part of gender affirming procedures. Changed “Last Review Date” to “Date of Last Revision” in the header. Added note before the criteria section stating that individuals with a disorder of sexual development (i.e. intersex) don’t need to meet all the same criteria for duration of gender dysphoria, age requirements and	12/19/2022	

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Revision Date	Approval Date
<p>duration of prior treatment such as hormone therapy. Incorporated gender-neutral language to the eligibility and criteria section II. A. 1, E. and III. A and B. In II.B., noted that informed consent includes awareness of treatment effects on fertility. Added the word “minimum” to degree requirement in criteria II.F. and G. In II.E, noted that the requirement of 12 months of hormone therapy before mastectomy in adolescents should be considered on a case-by-case basis. Added new criteria in section IV regarding facial procedures, and modified the not medically necessary procedures list in VI accordingly. Grammatical changes made to the background with no impact to the policy. “Date” changed to “Revision Date” in the revision log header. References reviewed and updated. Specialist reviewed.</p>		
<p>Annual review. Criteria updated to incorporate WPATH Standards of Care version 8 (SOC-8). Noted that intersex individuals are not subject to this criteria I. Background updated to reflect updates in WPATH SOC-8. References reviewed and updated and revised WPATH SOC-7 to SOC-8. Minor rewording in Description and in Criteria I.B.2. with no impact on criteria. Background updated with no impact on criteria. Reviewed by internal specialist and external specialist. Removed reference to Participants less than 18 years of age.</p>	09/2023	11/9/2023
<p>Annual review. Minor rewording in Criteria I.A.C.1.b. with no clinical impact. Refence to PA.CP.MP.130 removed, as policy has been retired by PHW (04/2024). References reviewed and updated.</p>	07/2024	

References

1. Coleman E, Radix AE, Bouman WP, et al. Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People, Version 8. *Int J Transgend Health*. 2022;23(Suppl 1):S1 to S259. Published 2022 Sep 6. doi:10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644
2. Knudson G, De Cuypere G, Bockting W. Recommendations for revision of the DSM diagnoses of gender identity disorders: Consensus statement of The World Professional Association for Transgender Health. *Int J Transgend*. 2010;12(2);115 to 118.
3. Fisk NM. Editorial: Gender dysphoria syndrome – the conceptualization that liberalizes indications for total gender reorientation and implies a broadly based multi-dimensional rehabilitative regimen. *West J Med*. 1974;120(5):386 to 391.
4. Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Issues and Research Gaps and Opportunities. *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2011.
5. Health Technology Assessment. Sex reassignment surgery for the treatment of gender dysphoria. Hayes. www.hayesinc.com. August 01, 2018 (annual review July 27, 2022). Accessed June 19, 2024.

6. Levine DA; Committee On Adolescence. Office-based care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. *Pediatrics* 2013;132(1):e297 to e313. doi:10.1542/peds.2013-1283
7. Tangpricha V, Safer JD. Transgender women: Evaluation and management. UpToDate. www.uptodate.com. Published October 12, 2023. Accessed June 14, 2024.
8. Tangpricha V, Safer JD. Transgender men: Evaluation and management. UpToDate. www.uptodate.com. Published June 30, 2023. Accessed June 19, 2024.
9. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health, Inc. (WPATH). Position statement on medical necessity of treatment, sex reassignment, and insurance coverage in the U.S.A. <https://www.wpath.org/newsroom/medical-necessity-statement>. Published December 21, 2016. Accessed June 19, 2024.
10. Health Care for Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals: ACOG Committee Opinion, Number 823. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2021;137(3):e75 to e88. doi:10.1097/AOG.0000000000004294
11. van de Griff TC, Elaut E, Cerwenka SC, Cohen-Kettenis PT, Kreukels BPC. Surgical Satisfaction, Quality of Life, and Their Association After Gender-Affirming Surgery: A Follow-up Study. *J Sex Marital Ther.* 2018;44(2):138 to 148. doi:10.1080/0092623X.2017.1326190
12. Papadopulos NA, Lellé JD, Zavlin D, et al. Quality of Life and Patient Satisfaction Following Male-to-Female Sex Reassignment Surgery. *J Sex Med.* 2017;14(5):721 to 730. doi:10.1016/j.jsxm.2017.01.022
13. Hembree WC, Cohen-Kettenis PT, Gooren L, et al. Endocrine Treatment of Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons: An Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline [published correction appears in *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2018 Feb 1;103(2):699] [published correction appears in *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2018 Jul 1;103(7):2758 to 2759]. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2017;102(11):3869 to 3903. doi:10.1210/jc.2017-01658
14. Local coverage article: billing and coding: gender reassignment services for gender dysphoria (A53793). Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/search.asp>. Published October 01, 2015 (revised November 09, 2023). Accessed June 14, 2024.
15. Van Damme S, Cosyns M, Deman S, Van den Eede Z, Van Borsel J. The Effectiveness of Pitch-raising Surgery in Male-to-Female Transsexuals: A Systematic Review. *J Voice.* 2017;31(2):244.e1 to 244.e5. doi:10.1016/j.jvoice.2016.04.002
16. Mahfouda S, Moore JK, Siafarikas A, et al. Gender-affirming hormones and surgery in transgender children and adolescents. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.* 2019;7(6):484 to 498. doi:10.1016/S2213-8587(18)30305-X
17. Butler RM, Horenstein A, Gitlin M, et al. Social anxiety among transgender and gender nonconforming individuals: The role of gender-affirming medical interventions. *J Abnorm Psychol.* 2019;128(1):25 to 31. doi:10.1037/abn0000399
18. Ferrando C. Gender-affirming surgery: Male to female. UpToDate. www.uptodate.com. Published April 03, 2024. Accessed June 10, 2024.
19. Ferrando C, Zhao LC, Nikolavsky D. Gender-affirming surgery: female to male. UpToDate. www.uptodate.com. Published January 04, 2024. Accessed June 10, 2024.
20. Leibowitz SF. Assessment of Transgender and Gender-Diverse Adolescents: Incorporating the World Professional Association of Transgender Health Standard of Care 8th

Edition. *Child Adolesc Psychiatr Clin N Am.* 2023;32(4):707-718.
doi:10.1016/j.chc.2023.05.009