

Clinical Policy: Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures

Reference Number: NC.CP.MP.31

Date of Last Revision: 10/2025

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

This policy will provide general guidelines as to when cosmetic and reconstructive surgery is or is not medically necessary. Not all cosmetic procedures are listed in this policy. The Medical Director has the final decision to deny coverage for services deemed cosmetic in nature and not medically necessary.

Note:

- This policy should only be used if there is no health plan-adopted nationally recognized decision support criteria.

Policy/Criteria

- I. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation[®] that *reconstructive procedures* are considered **medically necessary** when meeting all of the following:
 - A. Intent of the procedure meets one of the following:
 1. The procedure is performed to improve the function of an abnormal body part caused by illness, trauma, or a congenital defect after failure of conservative therapy (unless conservative therapy is not standard of care for the condition, or is contraindicated);
 2. Skin tag removal when located in an area that affects eyesight or in an area of friction with documentation of repeated irritation and bleeding (refer to Benefit Plan Contract for any coverage restrictions);
 3. Scar/keloid revision/removal when accompanied by pain unresponsive to conservative therapy and is recurrently infected, unstable, friable; or with functional impairment;
 - B. Certain reconstructive procedures may be covered if improving appearance is the only benefit, e.g. post-mastectomy breast reconstruction. These procedures may include, but are not limited to:
 1. Post-mastectomy*, medically necessary lumpectomy, or other medically necessary breast surgery resulting in asymmetry: breast reconstruction, including nipple reconstruction, tattooing and surgery on contralateral breast to restore symmetry;
 2. Use of FDA-approved facial dermal injections [Poly-L-Lactic acid (Sculptra[™]), calcium hydroxylapatite microspheres (Radiesse[®])] or autologous fat transfers for HIV-associated facial lipodystrophy syndrome (LDS)

Note: Photographs may be requested, if applicable.

- II. It is the policy of Health Plans affiliated with Centene Corporation that *cosmetic surgery* is **not medically necessary** and generally not a covered benefit when performed to improve a patient's normal appearance and self-esteem. These procedures include, but are not limited to:
 - A. Excision of excessive skin

- B. Body contouring
- C. Body lift
- D. Breast augmentation
- E. Liposuction, excluding lipoma as directed by clinical decision support criteria
- F. Surgery to correct unsatisfactory results from previous cosmetic and/or non-covered service
- G. Revision, removal, or replacement of breast implants previously placed for cosmetic reasons
- H. Removal of excess skin or body contouring procedures following weight loss or bariatric surgery when removal is solely cosmetic
- I. Facial augmentation
- J. Abdominoplasty
- K. Dermabrasion
- L. Skin rejuvenation and resurfacing
- M. Electrolysis, laser hair removal
- N. Hair transplantation, when not performed to correct permanent hair loss caused by disease or injury
- O. Tattooing (except when covered for breast reconstruction post-mastectomy)
- P. Injectable filler
- Q. Circumcision revisions done only to improve appearance
- R. Mastopexy (except for breast reconstruction post-mastectomy, medically necessary lumpectomy, or other medically necessary breast surgery resulting in significant asymmetry)
- S. Correction of inverted nipples
- T. Repair of diastasis recti
- U. Breast reconstruction for fibroadenomas or other benign lesions, unless medically necessary per clinical decision support criteria.

Background

Reconstructive surgery is performed on abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, previous or concurrent surgeries, trauma, infection, tumors or disease. It is generally performed to improve the functioning of a body part and may or may not restore a normal appearance.² Functional impairment is a health condition in which the normal function of a part of the body or organ system is less than age appropriate at full capacity, such as decreased range of motion, diminished eyesight or hearing, etc. that variably impacts activities of daily living.³

Cosmetic surgery is performed to reshape normal structures of the body in order to improve the appearance and self-esteem of a patient. It is generally considered not medically necessary.¹

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 2022, 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.

Table 1: CPT Codes That Are Eligible for Coverage When Medical Necessity Criteria Have Been Demonstrated

CPT Codes	Description
11200	Removal of skin tags, multiple fibrocutaneous tags, any area; up to and including 15 lesions
11201	Removal of skin tags, multiple fibrocutaneous tags, any area; each additional 10 lesions, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
11400	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 0.5 cm or less
11401	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 0.6 to 1.0 cm
11402	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 1.1 to 2.0 cm
11403	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 2.1 to 3.0 cm
11404	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter 3.1 to 4.0 cm
11406	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), trunk, arms or legs; excised diameter over 4.0 cm
11420	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter 0.5 cm or less
11421	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter 0.6 to 1.0 cm
11422	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter 1.1 to 2.0 cm
11423	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter 2.1 to 3.0 cm
11424	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter 3.1 to 4.0 cm
11426	Excision, benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), scalp, neck, hands, feet, genitalia; excised diameter over 4.0 cm
11440	Excision, other benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips, mucous membrane; excised diameter 0.5 cm or less
11441	Excision, other benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips, mucous membrane; excised diameter 0.6 to 1.0 cm

CPT Codes Codes	Description
11442	Excision, other benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips, mucous membrane; excised diameter 1.1 to 2.0 cm
11443	Excision, other benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips, mucous membrane; excised diameter 2.1 to 3.0 cm
11444	Excision, other benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips, mucous membrane; excised diameter 3.1 to 4.0 cm
11446	Excision, other benign lesion including margins, except skin tag (unless listed elsewhere), face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips, mucous membrane; excised diameter over 4.0 cm
11920	Tattooing, intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin, including micropigmentation; 6.0 sq cm or less
11921	Tattooing, intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin, including micropigmentation; 6.1 to 20.0 sq cm
11922	Tattooing, intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin, including micropigmentation; each additional 20.0 sq cm, 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)
15788	Chemical peel, facial; epidermal
15789	Chemical peel, facial; dermal
15792	Chemical peel, nonfacial; epidermal
15793	Chemical peel, nonfacial; dermal
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
15220	Full thickness graft, free, including direct closure of donor site, scalp, arms, and/or legs; 20 sq cm or less
15221	Full thickness graft, free, including direct closure of donor site, scalp, arms, and/or legs; each additional 20 sq cm, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

CPT Codes 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)
15775	Punch graft for hair transplant; 1 to 15 punch grafts
15776	Punch graft for hair transplant; more than 15 punch grafts
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 (eg, 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
15792	Chemical peel, nonfacial; epidermal
15793	Chemical peel, nonfacial; dermal
17106	Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); less than 10 sq cm
17107	Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); 10.0 to 50.0 sq cm
17108	Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique); over 50.0 sq cm
17110	Destruction (eg, laser surgery, electrosurgery, cryosurgery, chemosurgery, surgical curettment), of benign lesions other than skin tags or cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions; up to 14 lesions
17111	Destruction (eg, laser surgery, electrosurgery, cryosurgery, chemosurgery, surgical curettment), of benign lesions other than skin tags or cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions; 15 or more lesions
19301	Mastectomy, partial (eg, lumpectomy, tylectomy, quadrantectomy, segmentectomy);
19302	Mastectomy, partial (eg, lumpectomy, tylectomy, quadrantectomy, segmentectomy); with axillary lymphadenectomy
19303	Mastectomy, simple, complete
19316	Mastopexy
19318	Breast reduction
19325	Breast augmentation with implant
19328	Removal of intact breast implant
19330	Removal of ruptured breast implant, including implant contents (eg, saline, silicone gel)

CPT Codes Codes	Description
19340	Insertion of breast implant on same day of mastectomy (ie, immediate)
19342	Insertion or replacement of breast implant on separate day from mastectomy
19350	Nipple/areola reconstruction
19355	Correction of inverted nipples
19357	Tissue expander placement in breast reconstruction, including subsequent expansion(s)
19361	Breast reconstruction; with latissimus dorsi flap
19364	Breast reconstruction; with free flap (eg, fTRAM, DIEP, SIEA, GAP flap)
19367	Breast reconstruction; with single-pedicled transverse rectus abdominis myocutaneous (TRAM) flap
19368	Breast reconstruction; with single-pedicled transverse rectus abdominis myocutaneous (TRAM) flap, requiring separate microvascular anastomosis (supercharging)
19369	Breast reconstruction; with bipedicled transverse rectus abdominis myocutaneous (TRAM) flap
19370	Revision of peri-implant capsule, breast, including capsulotomy, capsulorrhaphy, and/or partial capsulectomy
19371	Peri-implant capsulectomy, breast, complete, including removal of all intracapsular contents
19380	Revision of reconstructed breast (eg, significant removal of tissue, re-advancement and/or re-inset of flaps in autologous reconstruction or significant capsular revision combined with soft tissue excision in implant-based reconstruction)
19396	Preparation of moulage for custom breast implant
19499	Unlisted procedure, breast
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)
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
21159	Reconstruction midface, LeFort III (extra and intracranial) with forehead advancement (eg, mono bloc), requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts); without LeFort I
21160	Reconstruction midface, LeFort III (extra and intracranial) with forehead advancement (eg, mono bloc), requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts); with LeFort I

CPT Codes Codes	Description
21172	Reconstruction superior-lateral orbital rim and lower forehead, advancement or alteration, with or without grafts (includes obtaining autografts)
21175	Reconstruction, bifrontal, superior-lateral orbital rims and lower forehead, advancement or alteration (eg, plagiocephaly, trigonocephaly, brachycephaly), with or without grafts (includes obtaining autografts)
21179	Reconstruction, entire or majority of forehead and/or supraorbital rims; with grafts (allograft or prosthetic material)
21180	Reconstruction, entire or majority of forehead and/or supraorbital rims; with autograft (includes obtaining grafts)
21181	Reconstruction by contouring of benign tumor of cranial bones (eg, fibrous dysplasia), extracranial
21182	Reconstruction of orbital walls, rims, forehead, nasoethmoid complex following intra- and extracranial excision of benign tumor of cranial bone (eg, fibrous dysplasia), with multiple autografts (includes obtaining grafts); total area of bone grafting less than 40 sq cm
21183	Reconstruction of orbital walls, rims, forehead, nasoethmoid complex following intra- and extracranial excision of benign tumor of cranial bone (eg, fibrous dysplasia), with multiple autografts (includes obtaining grafts); total area of bone grafting greater than 40 sq cm but less than 80 sq cm
21184	Reconstruction of orbital walls, rims, forehead, nasoethmoid complex following intra- and extracranial excision of benign tumor of cranial bone (eg, fibrous dysplasia), with multiple autografts (includes obtaining grafts); total area of bone grafting greater than 80 sq cm
21230	Graft; rib cartilage, autogenous, to face, chin, nose or ear (includes obtaining graft)
21235	Graft; ear cartilage, autogenous, to nose or ear (includes obtaining graft)
21255	Reconstruction of zygomatic arch and glenoid fossa with bone and cartilage (includes obtaining autografts)
21256	Reconstruction of orbit with osteotomies (extracranial) and with bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts) (eg, micro-ophthalmia)
21260	Periorbital osteotomies for orbital hypertelorism, with bone grafts; extracranial approach
21261	Periorbital osteotomies for orbital hypertelorism, with bone grafts; combined intra- and extracranial approach
21263	Periorbital osteotomies for orbital hypertelorism, with bone grafts; with forehead advancement
21267	Orbital repositioning, periorbital osteotomies, unilateral, with bone grafts; extracranial approach
21268	Orbital repositioning, periorbital osteotomies, unilateral, with bone grafts; combined intra- and extracranial approach

CPT Codes	Description
21270	Malar augmentation, prosthetic material
21275	Secondary revision of orbitocraniofacial reconstruction
21280	Medial canthopexy (separate procedure)
21282	Lateral canthopexy
21295	Reduction of masseter muscle and bone (eg, for treatment of benign masseteric hypertrophy); extraoral approach
21296	Reduction of masseter muscle and bone (eg, for treatment of benign masseteric hypertrophy); intraoral approach
61550	Craniectomy for craniosynostosis; single cranial suture
61552	Craniectomy for craniosynostosis; multiple cranial sutures
61556	Craniotomy for craniosynostosis; frontal or parietal bone flap
61557	Craniotomy for craniosynostosis; bifrontal bone flap
61558	Extensive craniectomy for multiple cranial suture craniosynostosis (eg, cloverleaf skull); not requiring bone grafts
61559	Extensive craniectomy for multiple cranial suture craniosynostosis (eg, cloverleaf skull); recontouring with multiple osteotomies and bone autografts (e.g., barrel-stave procedure) (includes obtaining grafts)

Table 2: HCPCS Codes That Are Eligible for Coverage When Medical Necessity Criteria Have Been Demonstrated

HCPCS Codes	Description
G0429	Dermal filler injection(s) for the treatment of facial lipodystrophy syndrome (LDS) as a result of highly active antiretroviral therapy)
Q2026	Injection, Radiesse, 0.1 ml
Q2028	Injection, Sculptra, 0.5 mg

Table 3: CPT Codes That Do Not Support Coverage Criteria

***Note: If billed, may pend for submission of supporting documentation.**

CPT/HCPCS Code	Descriptor
11950	Subcutaneous injection of filling material (eg, collagen); 1 cc or less
11951	Subcutaneous injection of filling material (eg, collagen); 1.1 to 5.0 cc
11952	Subcutaneous injection of filling material (eg, collagen); 5.1 to 10.0 cc
11954	Subcutaneous injection of filling material (eg, collagen); over 10.0 cc
15780	Dermabrasion; total face (eg, for acne scarring, fine wrinkling, rhytids, general keratosis)
15781	Dermabrasion; segmental, face
15782	Dermabrasion; regional, other than face
15783	Dermabrasion; superficial, any site (eg, tattoo removal)
15786	Abrasion; single lesion (eg, keratosis, scar)

15787	Abrasion; each additional 4 lesions or less (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
15819	Cervicoplasty
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
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
17380	Electrolysis epilation, each 30 minutes
19324	Mammoplasty, augmentation; without prosthetic implant
21125	Augmentation, mandibular body or angle; prosthetic material
21127	Augmentation, mandibular body or angle; with bone graft, onlay or interpositional (includes obtaining autograft)
21141	Reconstruction midface, LeFort I; single piece, segment movement in any direction (eg, for Long Face Syndrome), without bone graft
21142	Reconstruction midface, LeFort I; 2 pieces, segment movement in any direction, without bone graft
21143	Reconstruction midface, LeFort I; 3 or more pieces, segment movement in any direction, without bone graft
21145	Reconstruction midface, LeFort I; single piece, segment movement in any direction, requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts)
21146	Reconstruction midface, LeFort I; 2 pieces, segment movement in any direction, requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts) (eg, ungrafted unilateral alveolar cleft)
21147	Reconstruction midface, LeFort I; 3 or more pieces, segment movement in any direction, requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts) (eg, ungrafted bilateral alveolar cleft or multiple osteotomies)
21150	Reconstruction midface, LeFort II; anterior intrusion (eg, Treacher-Collins Syndrome)
21151	Reconstruction midface, LeFort II; any direction, requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts)
21154	Reconstruction midface, LeFort III (extracranial), any type, requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts); without LeFort I
21155	Reconstruction midface, LeFort III (extracranial), any type, requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts); with LeFort I
21196	Reconstruction of mandibular rami and/or body, sagittal split; with internal rigid fixation
21199	Osteotomy, mandible, segmental; with genioglossus advancement
21208	Osteoplasty, facial bones; augmentation (autograft, allograft, or prosthetic implant)

21209	Osteoplasty, facial bones; reduction
21248	Reconstruction of mandible or maxilla, endosteal implant (eg, blade, cylinder); partial
21249	Reconstruction of mandible or maxilla, endosteal implant (eg, blade, cylinder); complete
21740	Reconstructive repair of pectus excavatum or carinatum; open
21742	Reconstructive repair of pectus excavatum or carinatum; minimally invasive approach (Nuss procedure), without thoracoscopy
21743	Reconstructive repair of pectus excavatum or carinatum; minimally invasive approach (Nuss procedure), with thoracoscopy
30120	Excision or surgical planing of skin of nose for rhinophyma
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)
30465	Repair of nasal vestibular stenosis (eg, spreader grafting, lateral nasal wall reconstruction)
36468	Single or multiple injections of sclerosing solutions, spider veins (telangiectasia), limb or trunk
36470	Injection of sclerosing solution; single vein
36471	Injection of sclerosing solution; multiple veins, same leg
40500	Vermilionectomy (lip shave), with mucosal advancement
43770	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; placement of adjustable gastric restrictive device (eg, gastric band and subcutaneous port components)
65760	Keratomileusis
65765	Keratophakia
65767	Epikeratoplasty
67900	Repair of brow ptosis (supraciliary, mid-forehead or coronal approach)
67901	Repair of blepharoptosis; frontalis muscle technique with suture or other material (eg, banked fascia)
67902	Repair of blepharoptosis; frontalis muscle technique with autologous fascial sling (includes obtaining fascia)
67903	Repair of blepharoptosis; (tarso) levator resection or advancement, internal approach
67904	Repair of blepharoptosis; (tarso) levator resection or advancement, external approach

67906	Repair of blepharoptosis; superior rectus technique with fascial sling (includes obtaining fascia)
67908	Repair of blepharoptosis; conjunctivo-tarso-Muller's muscle-levator resection (eg, Fasanella-Servat type)
67950	Canthoplasty (reconstruction of canthus)
69090	Ear piercing
69300	Otoplasty, protruding ear, with or without size reduction
L8600	Implantable breast prosthesis, silicone or equal

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Revision Date	Approval Date
Original creation	03/09	03/09
Template updated. References reviewed. Criteria for panniculectomy removed and placed into CP.MP.109.	04/16	04/16
References reviewed and updated	4/17	04/17
References reviewed and updated	03/18	03/18
Minor reorganization to section I. without content change.	04/18	
Reorganized section 1 for clarity. Removed requirement that scar and keloid revisions must be in members under 18 years. Moved statement regarding documentation of medical records, photos. Removed specific mention of documentation of conservative therapies in the medical records criteria. Reorganized description and background sections.	03/19	03/19
Removed “significant” in I.A.4.a. In II. N. changed “hair replacement” to “hair transplantation.” Added additional not medically necessary indications i.e., (mastopexy except for breast reconstruction post-mastectomy or lumpectomy resulting in significant asymmetry, correction of inverted nipples, and repair of diastasis recti. Specialist reviewed. References reviewed and updated.	02/20	03/20
Added criteria for dermal injections and autologous fat injections for HIV-associated FLS. Changed policy title and medical necessity statements to state “cosmetic procedures” or “reconstructive procedures” instead of “cosmetic surgery” or “reconstructive surgery.” Added CPT and HCPCS codes for specified medically necessary indications. Added note to refer to CP.MP.95 Gender Affirming procedures for procedures related to treatment of gender dysphoria	04/20	05/20
Clarified in II.N. that hair transplant is not medically necessary, when not performed to correct permanent hair loss caused by disease or injury. Added the following applicable CPT codes: 15220,15221, 15775, 15776. Supporting references added.	09/20	09/20
Added applicable CPT codes: 15771, 15772.	01/21	
Annual review. Reviewed and updated references. CPT code description revised in 2021: 19318, 19325, 19328, 19340, 19342, 19357, 19361 19364, 19367, 19368, 19369, 19370, 19371, and 19380. CPT 19324 and 19366 deleted in 2021.	03/21	03/21

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Revision Date	Approval Date
<p>Clarified in I.A.1. failure of conservative therapy “(unless conservative therapy is not standard of care for the condition, or is contraindicated).” Changed “review date” in the header to “date of last revision” and “date” in the revision log header to “revision date.” Added the following codes from the retired Craniofacial Surgery policy; 21120, 21121, 21122, 21123, 21137, 21138, 21139, 21159, 21160, 21172, 21175, 21179, 21180, 21181, 21182, 21183, 21184, 21230, 21235, 21255, 21256, 21260, 21261, 21263, 21267, 21268, 21270, 21275, 21280, 21282, 21295, 21296, and craniectomy/craniotomy codes for craniosynostosis.</p>	08/21	08/21
<p>Clarified in I.A.4.a. “Post-mastectomy,* medically necessary lumpectomy, or other medically necessary breast surgery.” Updated II.R. “Mastopexy (except for breast reconstruction post-mastectomy, medically necessary lumpectomy, other medically necessary breast surgery resulting in significant asymmetry). In II.E., changed “InterQual” to “Decision Support Criteria.” Added II.U. “Breast reconstruction for fibroadenomas or other benign lesions, unless medically necessary per clinical decision support criteria” to not medically necessary procedures. Added codes 19330 and 19499. Annual review. References reviewed, updated, and reformatted.</p>	10/21	10/21
<p>Annual review completed. Added to I.A.4.b. “poly-L-lactic acid” and “calcium hydroxylapatite microspheres”. Minor rewording with no clinical significance. References reviewed and updated. Reviewed by external specialist.</p>	10/22	10/22
<p>CCH Specific Policy Developed to remove references to polices that CCH does not use. Annual review. Minor edits to I.A.4.b with no clinical significance. Removed CPT code 11310. References reviewed and updated. Reviewed by internal specialist.</p>	12/23	12/23
<p>Annual review. Added criteria to I.A.2. to include in an area that affects eyesight. Under I.A.3. replaced “standard” with “conservative. Moved notes about health plan-adopted nationally recognized decision support criteria and gender dysphoria to Description. Removed note regarding prophylactic mastectomy with BRCA mutation. Minor rewording in Background with no impact to criteria. References reviewed and updated. Reviewed by external specialist</p>	10/24	10/24
<p>Added 17106, 17107, 17108 to codes that support coverage criteria</p>	02/25	02/25
<p>Added “Table 1” and “Table 2” descriptors; Updated descriptions for Tables 1 and 2 to reflect “CPT Codes That Are Eligible for Coverage When Medical Necessity Criteria Have Been Demonstrated”. Added Table 3 to include list of codes that do not support coverage criteria. Added note above Table 3 regarding submission of supporting documentation.</p>	06/25	06/25
<p>Reformatted Criteria I. where I.A.4 is now I.B and removing I.A.4.b.i and ii (diagnosis of HIV and facial lipodystrophy syndrome) for clarity. Previous criteria I.B. regarding medical records with photographs</p>	10/25	10/25

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Revision Date	Approval Date
converted to a note, removing medical record requirement only. Coding and descriptions reviewed. References reviewed and updated.		

References

1. Local coverage determination: cosmetic and reconstructive surgery (L33428). Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Web site. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search.aspx>. Published October 01, 2015 (revised July 29, 2021). Accessed July 24, 2025.
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3. Memel D. Assessing functional ability is important. *Br J Gen Pract*. 2008;58(557):835 to 836. doi:10.3399/bjgp08X376159
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Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise

professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members/enrollees. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members/enrollees. Members/enrollees should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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Note: For Medicaid members/enrollees, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

Note: For Medicare members/enrollees, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

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