

**Medical Policy
Gender Affirming Procedures**

Document Number: 024

	Commercial and Qualified Health Plans	MassHealth
Authorization required	X	X
No Prior Authorization		
Not covered		

Overview

The purpose of this document is to describe the guidelines AllWays Health Partners utilizes to determine the medical necessity for gender affirming procedures. These coverage criteria speak to procedures associated with gender affirmation. The treating specialist must request prior authorization.

AllWays Health Partners covers medical therapy including Gender-affirming hormone therapy and puberty blockers. Authorizations for medications should be submitted through Pharmacy¹.

For MyCare Family Members, AllWays Health Partners aligns with MassHealth Guidelines for Medical Necessity Determination for Gender Reassignment Surgery.

Coverage Guidelines

AllWays Health Partners covers gender affirming procedures for individuals when it is recommended by the member’s providers and when the request meets the medical necessity criteria indicated below.

AllWays Health Partners covers *the following* procedures for Male to Female:

1. Vaginoplasty
2. Orchiectomy
3. Clitoroplasty
4. Penectomy
5. Labiaplasty
6. Augmentation Mammoplasty
7. Vulvoplasty
8. Facial Feminization

AllWays Health Partners covers *the following* procedures for Female to Male:

1. Vaginectomy
2. Urethroplasty
3. Phalloplasty
4. Metoidioplasty
5. Mastectomy

¹Please refer to plan materials to confirm Pharmacy Benefit coverage is included with your AllWays Health Partners benefit plan. For those plans that do not include Pharmacy coverage and have a separate Pharmacy Benefit Manager, prescription medication for gender affirmation may be covered under the prescription drug benefit.

6. Scrotoplasty
7. Hysterectomy
8. Erectile and testicular prosthesis
9. Salpingo-oophrectomy
10. Facial Masculinization

Gender Affirming Surgery

AllWays Health Partners covers medically necessary gender affirming surgery when all of the following requirements are met for individuals who are at least 18 years of age.

1. The treating surgeon must document *all* of the following:
 - a. The member has the capacity to make fully informed decisions and consent to treatment
 - b. The member has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria
 - c. The member is likely to benefit from surgery
 - d. The surgeon has consulted with the treating qualified behavioral health provider(s) and physician treating the member
 - e. The surgeon has personally communicated with the member and validates that the member understands the ramifications of surgery, including:
 - i. The required length of hospitalization(s)
 - ii. The different surgical techniques and advantages and disadvantages of each technique
 - iii. Limitations of surgical procedures
 - iv. Risks and complications of planned surgical procedures; and
 - v. The post-surgical rehabilitation requirements of the planned surgeries
2. The treating qualified behavioral health provider must document *all* of the following:
 - a. Whether or not the treating qualified behavioral health provider is part of a gender dysphoria treatment team
 - b. The member's general identifying characteristics
 - c. The initial and evolving gender, results of a full psychosocial assessment including the presence of gender dysphoria and any other psychiatric diagnoses
 - d. The duration of their professional relationship including the type of psychotherapy or evaluation that the member received
 - e. The qualified behavioral health provider's rationale for surgery
 - f. The qualified behavioral health provider has consulted with the physician who is prescribing hormone therapy as applicable ²
 - g. Assessment of the member's capacity to make a fully informed decision and consent for surgical treatment
 - h. That any significant mental health concerns are well controlled
 - i. The degree to which the member has followed the treatment and experiential requirements to date and the likelihood of future compliance

² AllWays Health Partners does not require hormone therapy for female to male chest reconstructive surgery.
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- j. Demonstrable progress on the part of the member in consolidating the new gender identity, including improvements in:
 - i. The ability to function in work, and within family and interpersonal relationships; and
 - ii. Behavioral health issues, should they exist

Vaginoplasty, Metoidioplasty, Phalloplasty

AllWays Health Partners covers vaginoplasty, metoidioplasty, and phalloplasty surgery when the requirements as noted above are met, AND documentation has been submitted from a second qualified behavioral health provider who has had only an evaluative role with the member. This behavioral health provider must be capable of adequately evaluating the member for gender dysphoria, other psychiatric diagnoses, and for any contraindications precluding the member from surgery.

In addition, requests for vaginoplasty, metoidioplasty, and phalloplasty would require documentation of 12 continuous months of living in a gender role congruent with their gender identity.

Adolescent Members

Requests for procedures for members under the age of 18 will be reviewed on a case by case basis. These members must meet the documentation requirements above. In addition, any supporting documentation that attests to the following:

- The Member has been counseled regarding risk and benefits or surgery and has a full understanding of the long-term consequences of gender affirming surgery
- Psychological evaluation has screened the member for co-existing mental health conditions and that any significant mental health concerns are well controlled
- The Member has been screened for adequate social supports and safety

Surgical Revisions

AllWays Health Partners covers reconstructive surgery following gender affirmation procedures (including facial feminization/masculinization) only in the following conditions:

1. To correct complications resulting from the initial surgery, OR
2. To correct functional impairment resulting from initial surgery

Hair Removal by Electrolysis or Laser

AllWays Health Partners covers hair removal with laser or electrolysis, by a board-certified dermatologist or treating provider, when the member meets one of the following criteria for planned transgender genital surgery:

1. The defined area of hair removal is to treat tissue donor site(s) for a planned surgical phalloplasty
2. The defined area of hair removal is to treat tissue donor site(s) for a planned surgical vaginoplasty

Documentation, including a letter of medical necessity by the treating surgeon, is required which attests to plan and timeline for surgery pending completion of hair removal. Electrolysis/laser hair removal for any other part of the body is considered cosmetic and not covered.



Facial Feminization/Masculinization (Commercial Account members)

AllWays Health Partners covers facial feminization or masculinization when all of the following requirements are met:

1. The member is at least 18 years of age
2. The member has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria
3. The member has completed a minimum of 12 months of successful continuous full-time real-life experience in their new gender, with no returning to their original gender
 - a. If the member does not meet the 12-month time frame criteria of 12 months of successful continuous full-time real-life experience in their new gender noted above, then the treating clinician must submit information indicating why it would be clinically inappropriate to require the member to meet these criteria. When submitted, the criteria of 12 months of successful continuous full time real-life experience in their new gender may be waived.
4. Covered procedures when medical necessity criteria above are met:
 - a. Forehead contouring
 - b. Rhinoplasty
 - c. Mandible reconstruction
 - d. Trachea shave
 - e. Blepharoplasty
 - f. Brow lift
 - g. Cheek augmentation
 - h. Face lift or liposuction (only as needed in conjunction with one of the above procedures).

Facial Feminization/Masculinization (MassHealth members)

AllWays Health Partners covers facial feminization or masculinization when all of the following requirements are met:

1. The member is at least 18 years of age
2. The member has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria meeting DSM-V criteria by a qualified mental health professional and the diagnosis has been present for at least 6 months
3. Recommendation for the requested procedure is made by the qualified mental professional mentioned above
4. Co-morbid medical or mental health disorders are appropriately managed, reasonably controlled, and not causing symptoms of dysphoria
5. Covered procedures when medical necessity criteria above are met:
 - a. Forehead contouring
 - b. Rhinoplasty
 - c. Mandible reconstruction
 - d. Trachea shave
 - e. Blepharoplasty (only as needed in conjunction with other facial feminization procedures)
 - f. Brow lift
 - g. Cheek augmentation



- h. Face lift (forehead and cheek, excluding neck)
- i. Liposuction

Fertility Services (Commercial members only)

AllWays Health Partners covers services related to fertility preservation in members undergoing gender affirming procedures. Please refer to details of coverage in AllWays Health Partners' [Assisted Reproductive Services/Infertility Services](#) medical policy.

Exclusions

AllWays Health Partners does not provide coverage for:

1. Gender affirming procedures for conditions that do not meet the criteria noted above;
2. Reversal of any surgical procedures related to Gender Dysphoria that do not meet the criteria noted above;
3. When there are contraindications to the planned surgery;
4. Breast surgeries when either the coverage criteria above or criteria in the Breast Surgeries Medical Policy are not met;
5. Cosmetic procedures when either the coverage criteria above or criteria in the Reconstructive and Cosmetic Procedures Clinical Criteria are not met; (unless specified in the Member Handbook or Amendment)
6. Voice modification therapy/surgery (unless specified in the Member Handbook or Amendment)
7. Hair transplant (unless specified in the Member Handbook or Amendment)

Definitions

Gender Affirming Surgery: A treatment option for people with gender dysphoria. Gender affirming surgery is not a single procedure but a part of a complex processing involving multiple medical, psychiatric, and surgical modalities performed in conjunction with each other to help the person achieve successful behavioral and medical outcomes.

Gender Identity and Gender:

Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011. Section 7 of chapter 4 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, is:

“Gender identity” shall mean a person's gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth. Gender-related identity may be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held as part of a person's core identity; provided, however, that gender-related identity shall not be asserted for any improper purpose.

The American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition defines gender dysphoria as the presence of:

“a marked difference between the individual’s expressed/experienced gender and the gender others would assign him or her, and it must continue for at least six months. In children the desire to be of the other gender must be present and verbalized. This condition causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.”

Qualified Behavioral Health Provider: A behavioral health provider with the following qualifications:

1. Master’s degree or its equivalent in a clinical behavioral science field. This degree or a more advanced one should be granted by an institution accredited by the appropriate national or regional accrediting board. The behavioral health provider should have documented credentials from a relevant licensing board or equivalent for that country.
2. Competence in using the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* and/or the International Classification of Disease for diagnostic purposes.
3. Ability to recognize and diagnose co-existing mental health concerns and to distinguish these from gender dysphoria.
4. Documented supervised training and competence in psychotherapy or counseling.
5. Knowledgeable about gender nonconforming identities and expressions, and the assessment and treatment of gender dysphoria.
6. 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.

Presurgical Behavioral Health Evaluation: The evaluation includes, at a minimum, assessment of gender identity and gender dysphoria, history and development of gender dysphoric feelings, the impact of stigma attached to gender nonconformity on mental health, and the availability of support from family, friends, and peers (for example, in-person or online contact with other transsexual, transgender, or gender-nonconforming individuals or groups). The evaluation may result in no diagnosis, in a formal diagnosis related to gender dysphoria, and/or in other diagnoses that describe aspects of the client’s health and psychosocial adjustment. The role of mental health professionals includes making reasonably sure that the gender dysphoria is not secondary to, or better accounted for, by other diagnoses.

Related Policies

- [Breast Surgeries Medical Policy](#)
- [Definition of Skilled Care](#)
- [Reconstructive and Cosmetic Procedures Medical Policy](#)
- [Assisted Reproductive Services/Infertility Services](#)

CPT/HCPC Codes

Authorized CPT/HCPCS Codes	Code Description
17380	Electrolysis epilation, each 30 minutes
19303	Mastectomy, simple, complete
19304	Mastectomy, subcutaneous

53430	Urethroplasty, reconstruction of female urethra
54120	Amputation of penis; partial
54125	Amputation of penis; complete
54520	Orchiectomy, simple (including subcapsular), with or without testicular prosthesis, scrotal or inguinal approach
54690	Laparoscopy; orchiectomy
55970	Intersex surgery; male to female
55980	Intersex surgery; female to male
56625	Vulvectomy simple; complete
56800	Plastic repair introitus
56805	Clitoroplasty for intersex state
57110	Vaginectomy, complete removal of vaginal wall
57291	Construction of artificial vagina; without graft
57292	Construction of artificial vagina; with graft
57335	Vaginoplasty for intersex state
58150	Total abdominal hysterectomy (corpus and cervix), with or without removal of tube(s), with or without removal of ovary(s);
58180	Supracervical abdominal hysterectomy (subtotal hysterectomy), with or without removal of tube(s), with or without removal of ovary(s)
58260	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 grams or less;
58262	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 grams or less; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s)
58275	Vaginal hysterectomy, with total or partial vaginectomy
58290	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 grams;
58291	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 grams; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s)
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 grams or less;
58552	Laparoscopy surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 grams or less; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s)

58554	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 grams; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s)
58571	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s)
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 lysis of adhesions (salpingolysis, ovariolysis) (separate procedure): 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
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
15876	Suction assisted lipectomy; head and neck
15877	Suction assisted lipectomy; trunk
15878	Suction assisted lipectomy; upper extremity
15879	Suction assisted lipectomy; lower extremity
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)
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)
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
21141	Reconstruction midface, LeFort I; single piece, segment movement in any direction (e.g., 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) (e.g., ungrafted unilateral alveolar cleft)
21147	Reconstruction midface, LeFort I; 3 or more pieces, segment movement in any direction, requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts) (e.g., ungrafted bilateral alveolar cleft or multiple osteotomies)
21150	Reconstruction midface, LeFort II; anterior intrusion (e.g., 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
21159	Reconstruction midface, LeFort III (extra and intracranial) with forehead advancement (e.g., mono bloc), requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts); without LeFort I
21160	Reconstruction midface, LeFort III (extra and intracranial) with forehead advancement (e.g., mono bloc), requiring bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts); with LeFort I
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 (e.g., 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)
21188	Reconstruction midface, osteotomies (other than LeFort type) and bone grafts (includes obtaining autografts)
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)
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)
21244	Reconstruction of mandible, extraoral, with transosteal bone plate (e.g., mandibular staple bone plate)
21245	Reconstruction of mandible or maxilla, subperiosteal implant; partial
21246	Reconstruction of mandible or maxilla, subperiosteal implant; complete
21248	Reconstruction of mandible or maxilla, endosteal implant (e.g., blade, cylinder); partial
21249	Reconstruction of mandible or maxilla, endosteal implant (e.g., blade, cylinder); complete
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)
30460	Rhinoplasty for nasal deformity secondary to congenital cleft lip and/or palate, including columellar lengthening; tip only
30462	Rhinoplasty for nasal deformity secondary to congenital cleft lip and/or palate, including columellar lengthening; tip, septum and osteotomies
30465	Repair of nasal vestibular stenosis (e.g., spreader grafting, lateral nasal wall reconstruction)
30520	Septoplasty or submucous resection, with or without cartilage scoring, contouring or replacement with graft
67900	Repair of brow ptosis (supraciliary, mid-forehead or coronal approach)
67901	Repair of blepharoptosis; frontalis muscle technique with suture or other material (e.g., 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, internal 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)
67909	Reduction of overcorrection of ptosis
67911	Correction of lid retraction
67912	Correction of lagophthalmos, with implantation of upper eyelid lid load (e.g., gold weight)
67916	Repair of ectropion; excision tarsal wedge
67917	Repair of ectropion; extensive (e.g., tarsal strip operations)
67923	Repair of entropion; excision tarsal wedge
67924	Repair of entropion; extensive (e.g., tarsal strip or capsulopalpebral fascia repairs)
67950	Canthoplasty (reconstruction of canthus)
67961	Excision and repair of eyelid, involving lid margin, tarsus, conjunctiva, canthus, or full thickness, may include preparation for skin graft or pedicle flap with adjacent tissue transfer or rearrangement; up to one-fourth of lid margin
69300	Otoplasty, protruding ear, with or without size reduction

31599	Unlisted procedure, larynx (Tracheal Shaving)
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Effective

September 2019: Added language to exclusions “unless specified in the Member Handbook or Amendment”. Removed language “commercial accounts only” throughout document. Added coverage criteria for Facial Feminization/Masculinization for MassHealth members.

June 2019: Annual review. Changed title of policy to Gender Affirming Procedures. Revised overview section to include hormone therapy and MyCare Family language. Under Gender Affirming Surgery section removed requirement that the diagnosis of gender dysphoria be done by a behavioral health provider. Under Gender Affirming Surgery, removed requirement that the member complete 12-month, real life experience trial. Changed subheading name from Genital Surgery to Vaginoplasty, Metoidioplasty, Phalloplasty. Added documentation requirement of 12 continuous months living in a gender role congruent with their gender identity. Added Adolescent Members section. Added Surgical Revisions section. Revised criteria under Facial Feminization/Masculinization section. Revised Exclusion section.

August 2018: Changed title of policy to Gender Affirming Treatment. Added facial feminization/masculinization criteria for commercial members only. Added Fertility Services section.

April 2018: Added codes.

December 2017: Annual review. Added criteria for hair removal.

June 2017: Removed language requiring member to receive 12 months of behavioral health evaluation.

November 2016: Annual review

November 2015: Annual review without substantial changes in medically necessary indicators. Gender Identity and Gender definition added.

October 2014: Effective date.

References

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WPATH Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People, Seventh Version: <http://www.wpath.org/>