

ASPS Recommended Insurance Coverage Criteria for Third-Party Payers

Prophylactic Mastectomy

BACKGROUND

Overall, women in the U.S. have a 12.5% lifetime risk of developing breast cancer, and a 3.5% lifetime risk of dying from the disease.¹ Certain women fall into high risk groups in which cancer incidence is markedly increased. This includes women with a family history of breast cancer in first and second-degree relatives or those who carry the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene. They have a lifetime risk of breast cancer estimated from 60-90%.² Patients who have had breast cancer at an early age (< 40 years) have an increased lifetime risk of developing breast cancer in the opposite breast. These patients may seek a prophylactic mastectomy which carries a risk reduction of greater than 90% in high risk women with or without the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene.^{3,4} Other groups of women at high risk include those with atypical hyperplasia and fibrocystic breast disease and pathologic findings showing diffuse microcalcifications, lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS) or invasive lobular cancer.

Though extremely rare, male breast cancer does occur. Males who have had breast cancer, particularly those with a family history of the disease, may want to consider prophylactic treatment.

Since 1998, federal law has mandated insurance coverage for breast reconstruction and includes procedures to restore and achieve symmetry on the opposite breast.

DEFINITION: COSMETIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

For reference, the following definitions of cosmetic and reconstructive surgery were adopted by the American Medical Association in 1989:

Cosmetic surgery is performed to reshape normal structures of the body in order to improve the patient's appearance and self-esteem.

Reconstructive surgery is performed on abnormal structures of the body, caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors or disease. It is generally performed to improve function, but may also be done to approximate a normal appearance.

DEFINITION: PROPHYLACTIC MASTECTOMY

Prophylactic mastectomy is the surgical removal of the breast to prevent the occurrence or reoccurrence of cancer.

POLICY

Prophylactic mastectomy is considered reconstructive surgery and medically necessary when one of the following diagnoses or conditions are present:

Diagnosis

	<u>ICD-9</u>
A. Family history of malignant neoplasm of breast	V16.3
B. Personal history of malignant neoplasm of breast	V10.3
C. Fibrocystic breast disease	610.1
D. Malignant neoplasm of female breast	174.0-174.9
E. Malignant neoplasm of male breast	175.0-175.9
F. Carcinoma in situ of the breast	233.0
G. Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of the breast	238.3

Procedure

	<u>CPT Code</u>
A. Mastectomy, simple, complete	19180
B. Mastectomy, simple, complete, bilateral	19180-50
C. Mastectomy, subcutaneous	19182
D. Mastectomy, subcutaneous, bilateral	19182-50

This coding is provided as a guideline for the physician and is not meant to be exclusive of other possible codes. Other codes may be acceptable depending on the nature of any given procedure.

References

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