



ASPS Recommended Insurance Coverage Criteria for Third-Party Payers

Breast Reconstruction for Deformities Unrelated to Cancer Treatment

BACKGROUND

For women, the function of the breast, aside from the brief periods when it serves for lactation, is an organ of female sexual identity. The female breast is a major component of a woman's self image and is important to her psychological sense of femininity and sexuality. Both men and women with abnormal breast structure(s) often suffer from a severe negative impact on their self esteem, which may adversely affect his or her well-being.

Breast deformities unrelated to cancer treatment occur in both men and women and may present either bilaterally or unilaterally. These deformities result from congenital anomalies, trauma, disease, or mal-development. Because breast deformities often result in abnormally asymmetrical breasts, surgery of the contralateral breast, as well as the affected breast, may be required to achieve symmetry.

DEFINITION: COSMETIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

For reference, the following definition of cosmetic and reconstructive surgery was adopted by the American Medical Association, June 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.

POLICY

Breast reconstruction surgery to correct breast deformities, as well as surgery on the contralateral breast to achieve symmetry, are considered reconstructive surgery and, therefore, should be a covered benefit and reimbursed by third-party payers.

DIAGNOSIS CODING

Diagnosis

ICD-9

Breast hypertrophy	611.1
Other specified disorders of the breast	611.8
Acquired deformity of chest and rib	738.3
Congenital deformity of the chest wall:	754.89
Poland's Syndrome	

Anomalies of breast:	757.6
■ Tubular breast	
■ Absent breast or nipple (amastia)	
■ Breast asymmetry	
■ Breast hypoplasia/micromastia	
■ Accessory breast or nipple	
■ Supernumerary	

Burn of breast:

■ Late effect of burns of other specified sites	906.8
■ Acquired absence of breast	V45.71

TREATMENT

A variety of reconstruction techniques are available to accommodate a wide range of breast defects. The technique(s) selected are dependent on the nature of the defect, the patient's individual circumstances and the surgeon's judgment. When developing the surgical plan, the surgeon must correct underlying deficiencies as well as take into consideration the goal of achieving bilateral symmetry. Depending on the individual patient circumstances, surgery on the contralateral breast may be necessary to achieve symmetry. Surgical procedures on the opposite breast may include reduction mammoplasty and mastopexy with or without augmentation.

POSSIBLE CPT CODING

A. Mastopexy	19316
B. Reduction mammoplasty	19318
C. Mammoplasty, augmentation; without prosthetic implant	19324
D. With prosthetic implant	19325
E. Immediate insertion of breast prosthesis following mastopexy, mastectomy or in reconstruction	19340
F. Delayed insertion of breast prosthesis following mastopexy, mastectomy or in reconstruction	19342
G. Nipple/areolar reconstruction	19350
H. Breast reconstruction, immediate or delayed, with tissue expander, including subsequent expansion	19357
I. Breast reconstruction with latissimus dorsi flap, with or without prosthetic implant	19361
J. Breast reconstruction with free flap	19364
K. Breast reconstruction with other technique	19366
L. Breast reconstruction with transverse rectus abdominis myocutaneous flap (TRAM), single pedicle, including closure of donor site;	19367
M. With microvascular anastomosis (supercharging)	19368
N. Breast reconstruction with transverse rectus abdominis myocutaneous flap (TRAM), double pedicle, including closure of donor site.	19369
O. Open periprosthetic capsulotomy, breast	19370
P. Periprosthetic capsulectomy, breast	19371
Q. Revision of reconstructed breast	19380
R. Preparation of mouldage for custom breast implant	19396
S. Unlisted procedure, breast	19499

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