I. COVERAGE

**Coverage Statement:** Breast reconstruction post mastectomy is covered when Medicare coverage criteria are met.

**Guidelines/Notes:**

1. Reconstruction of the affected and the contralateral unaffected breast following a medically necessary mastectomy is considered a relatively safe and effective noncosmetic procedure. Accordingly, program payment may be made for breast reconstruction surgery following removal of a breast for any medical reason. See the [NCD for Breast Reconstruction Following Mastectomy (140.2)](https://www.access4all.org/), (Accessed April 5, 2018)

When a member elects breast reconstruction following a medically necessary mastectomy or lumpectomy, *coverage in accordance with Medicare guidelines* is to be provided as
determined through consultation between the attending physician and the member. See the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA), (Accessed April 5, 2018)

Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Article (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment A), (Accessed December 14, 2018)

**Covered services** include, but are not limited to:

a. External breast prosthesis and bras; see the Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetics, Corrective Appliances/Orthotics (Non-Foot Orthotics) and Medical Supplies Grid.

b. Breast Implant and Tissue Expansion (CPT codes 19340, 19342, 19357)
   - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for breast implant and tissue expansion.
   - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Articles (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment A).
   - **For states with no LCDs/LCAs**, refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Coverage Determination Guideline (CDG) for Breast Reconstruction Post Mastectomy for coverage guideline. (IMPORTANT NOTE: After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.)
   - **Committee approval date: April 17, 2018**
   - **Accessed December 14, 2018**

c. Nipple tattoo for post-mastectomy reconstructive purposes; see the Coverage Summary for Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedure.

d. Adjacent tissue transfer; see the Coverage Summary for Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures.

e. Mastopexy; see the Coverage Summary for Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures.

f. Reductive Mammaplasty; see the Coverage Summary for Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures.

g. Pneumatic compression devices are covered for the treatment of physical complications resulting from the mastectomy or lumpectomy, including lymphedema. See the Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetics, Corrective Appliances/Orthotics (Non-Foot Orthotics) and Medical Supplies Grid.

h. Myocutaneous Flaps (CPT codes 19361, 19364, 19366, 19367, 19368, 19369)
   - Medicare does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for myocutaneous flaps.
   - Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)/Local Coverage Article (LCAs) exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. For state-specific LCDs/LCAs, refer to the LCD Availability Grid (Attachment A).
   - **For states with no LCDs/LCAs**, refer to the UnitedHealthcare Commercial Coverage Determination Guideline (CDG) for Breast Reconstruction Post Mastectomy for coverage guideline. (IMPORTANT NOTE: After checking the LCD Availability Grid and searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no state LCD/LCA is found, then use the above referenced policy.)
   - **Committee approval date: April 17, 2018**
2. Reconstructive services are not covered for members who have not had a medically necessary mastectomy or lumpectomy and who are requesting surgery only for the purpose of creating symmetrical breasts or other cosmetic purpose.

Program payment may not be made for breast reconstruction for cosmetic reasons. (Cosmetic surgery is excluded from coverage under §1862(a)(10) of the Act. See the NCD for Breast Reconstruction Following Mastectomy (140.2). (Accessed April 5, 2018)

II. DEFINITIONS


III. REFERENCES

See above

IV. REVISION HISTORY

04/01/2019  
- Updated policy introduction; added language to clarify:
  - There are instances where [the Coverage Summary] may direct readers to a UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy, Medical Benefit Drug Policy, and/or Coverage Determination Guideline (CDG)
  - In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence ([Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5](#))
- Retitled reference links that direct users to UnitedHealthcare Commercial policies

09/18/2018  
Updated Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Availability Grid; removed instruction to “use the applicable LCD based on member’s residence/place and type of service” (this note only applies when selecting the appropriate DME LCD Policy)

04/17/2018  
Annual review with the following updates:

Guideline 1 - updated to include the following coverage language from the reference NCD for Breast Reconstruction Following Mastectomy (140.2):

*Reconstruction of the affected and the contralateral unaffected breast following a medically necessary mastectomy is considered a relatively safe and effective noncosmetic procedure. Accordingly, program payment may be made for breast reconstruction surgery following removal of a breast for any medical reason.*

Guideline 1.a – deleted the following; will be included under Guideline 1
Reconstruction of the affected and the contralateral unaffected breast following a medically necessary mastectomy.

Guideline 1.c [Initial breast implant (CPT code 19340)] – moved and included under new Guideline 1.b (Breast Implant and Tissue Expansion)

Guideline 1.d (Replacement breast implants when medically necessary) – moved and included under new Guideline 1.b (Breast Implant and Tissue Expansion)

Guideline 1.b [Breast Implant and Tissue Expansion (CPT codes 19340, 19339, 19342, 19357)] – added detailed guideline

Guideline 1.e [Nipple Tattoo (CPT codes 11920, 11921, 11922)] – deleted CPT codes; guideline has cross reference link to the Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures Coverage Summary which includes guideline and CPT codes for Nipple Tattoo.

Guideline 1.f [Tissue expansion (CPT code 19357)] – moved and included under new Guideline 1.b (Breast Implant and Tissue Expansion)

Guideline 1.g (Regional Tissue Transfer) – changed to “Adjacent Tissue Transfer” and add cross reference link to the Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures Coverage Summary.

Guideline 1.h [Mastopexy (CPT code 19316)] - deleted CPT codes; guideline has cross reference link to the Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures Coverage Summary which includes guideline and CPT codes for Mastopexy.

Guideline 1.i [Reductive Mammoplasty)(CPT code 19318)] - deleted CPT codes; guideline has cross reference link to the Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures Coverage Summary which includes guideline and CPT codes for Reductive Mammoplasty.

Guideline 1.j (Pneumatic Compression Devices)

- Deleted the following language (already in the DME Grid)

  *LCDs exist and compliance with these policies is required where applicable. See the LCD for Pneumatic Compression Devices (L33829).*

  **DME Face to Face Requirement:** Effective July 1, 2013, Section 6407 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) established a face-to-face encounter requirement for certain items of DME (including pneumatic compression devices). For DME Face to Face Requirement information, refer to the Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetics, Corrective Appliances/Orthotics (Non-Foot Orthotics) and Medical Supplies Grid

  **Revised guideline to read:**

  *Pneumatic compression devices is covered for the treatment of physical complications resulting from the mastectomy or lumpectomy, including lymphedema See the Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetics, Corrective Appliances/Orthotics (Non-Foot Orthotics) and Medical Supplies Grid.*

Guideline 2 – updated to include the following language update to include the following coverage language from the reference NCD for Breast Reconstruction Following Mastectomy (140.2):
Program payment may not be made for breast reconstruction for cosmetic reasons. (Cosmetic surgery is excluded from coverage under §862(a)(10) of the Act.)

01/16/2018 Re-review with the following updates:
Guideline 1 - Updated the applicable LCDs to include the most recent website links and effective dates related to the Cahaba-Palmetto jurisdiction transition; no change in guideline.
Guideline 1.k (Myocutaneous Flaps) - Updated the applicable LCDs to include the most recent website links and effective dates related to the Cahaba-Palmetto jurisdiction transition; no change in guideline.

04/18/2017 Annual review with the following updates:
Guideline 1.k [Myocutaneous Flaps (CPT codes 19361, 19364, 19366, 19367, 19368, 19369)]
- Deleted the reference link to the UnitedHealthcare Coverage Determination Guideline for Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures

03/21/2017 Re-review with the following update:
- Guideline 1.k (Myocutaneous Flaps) - Updated reference from MCG 20th to the 21st edition 2017.

03/15/2016 Annual review with the following updates:
- Guideline 1.k (Myocutaneous Flaps) - Updated reference from MCG 19th to the 20th edition.
- Updated reference link(s) of the applicable LCDs in the Availability Grids to reflect the condensed link.

12/16/2015 Updated the LCD Availability Grid to include reference link(s) to the applicable) LCDs to reflect the new LCD ID numbering effective October 1, 2015 and December 10, 2015.

5/19/2015 Annual review with the following update:
Guideline 1.k (Myocutaneous Flaps) - Changed default policy for states with no LCDs from UnitedHealthcare Coverage Determination Guideline for Breast Reconstruction Post Mastectomy to MCG™ Care Guidelines, 19th edition, 2015, Mastectomy, Complete, with Tissue Flap Reconstruction ORG:S-864 (ISC)

05/20/2014 Annual review with the following updates:
- Guideline #1.j (Breast Reconstruction with Latissimus Dorsi Flap) – Deleted; already addressed under Guideline #1.k Myocutaneous Flaps.
- Definitions - Updated definition of Reconstructive Surgery.

02/18/2014 Guidelines #1.k.2 (Complex Decongestive Physiotherapy) – section deleted; default LCD, L32698 was retired on October 31, 2013.
08/20/2013  Added a note pertaining to the DME Face-to-Face Requirement in accordance with Section 6407 of the Affordable Care Act as defined in the 42 CFR 410.38(g).

Guidelines #1.1 (Myocutaneous Flaps)-Added applicable coverage guidelines (new to policy). Added reference to CPT codes 19361, 19364, 19366, 19367, 19368 and 19369.

06/24/2013  Annual review with the following updates:
- Guidelines #1.e (Nipple tattoo for post-mastectomy reconstructive purposes) - Guidelines replaced with the link to the Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures Coverage Summary.
- Guidelines #1.f (Tissue expansion) - Added reference to CPT code 19357
- Guidelines #1.h (Mastopexy) - Guidelines replaced with the link to the Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures Coverage Summary.
- Guideline #1.i (Reductive Mammaplasty) - Guidelines replaced with the link to the Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures Coverage Summary.
- Guidelines #1.j (Breast reconstruction with Latissimus Dorsi flap) - Added under covered services (new to policy)
- Guideline #2 (Breast reconstruction with muscle or myocutaneous flap; CPT code 19360) - Guidelines deleted; guidelines and CPT code 19360 no longer addressed in the Medicare Claims Manual.

06/18/2012  Annual review; no updates.

12/02/2011  Updated LCD Availability Grid (Attachment A), added Trailblazer L31784 and Palmetto L30852.


01/19/2011  Policy updated to include the new web site for the American Cancer Society, Glossary of Terms in the Reference section.

V. ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment A - LCD Availability Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L34698</td>
<td>Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery</td>
<td>Mac Part A</td>
<td>Wisconsin Physicians Service</td>
<td>AK, AL, AR, AZ, CT, FL, GA, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, OH, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L34698</td>
<td>Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery</td>
<td>Mac Part B</td>
<td>Wisconsin Physicians Service</td>
<td>IA, IN, KS, MI, MO, NE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Attachment A - LCD Availability Grid

**Breast Implant and Tissue Expansion (CPT codes 19340, 19342, 19357)**

**Myocutaneous Flaps (CPT codes 19361, 19364, 19366, 19367, 19368, 19369)**

CMS website accessed December 14, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCD ID</th>
<th>LCD Title</th>
<th>Contractor Type</th>
<th>Contractor</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L33428</td>
<td>Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Palmetto GBA</td>
<td>NC, SC, VA, WV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AL, GA, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L35090</td>
<td>Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Novitas Solutions, Inc.</td>
<td>AR, CO, DC, DE, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NM, OK, PA, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L35163</td>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>AS, CA, GU, HI, MP, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L37020</td>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>A and B MAC</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC</td>
<td>AK, AZ, ID, MT, ND, OR, SD, WA, UT, WY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of Attachment A