RHINOPLASTY AND OTHER NASAL SURGERIES

Policy Number: ENT 005.25 T2
Effective Date: June 1, 2019

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Related Policies
- Cosmetic and Reconstructive Procedures
- Orthognathic (Jaw) Surgery
- Plagiocephaly and Craniosynostosis Treatment

CONDITIONS OF COVERAGE

Applicable Lines of Business/Products
This policy applies to Oxford Commercial plan membership.

Benefit Type
General benefits package

Referral Required
(Does not apply to non-gatekeeper products)
No

Authorization Required
(Precertification always required for inpatient admission)
Yes\(^1,2\)

Precertification with Medical Director Review Required
Yes\(^1,2\)

Applicable Site(s) of Service
(If site of service is not listed, Medical Director review is required)
Outpatient\(^1\), Office\(^1,2\)

Special Considerations
\(^1\)Precertification with review by a Medical Director or their designee may be required.
\(^2\)Participating Providers in the Office Setting: Precertification is required for services performed in the office of a participating provider. Non-Participating/Out-of-Network Providers in the Office Setting: Precertification is not required, but is encouraged for out-of-network services performed in the office. If precertification is not obtained, Oxford will review for out of network benefits and medical necessity after the service is rendered.

COVERAGE RATIONALE

Indications for Coverage
Some states require benefit coverage for services that Oxford considers cosmetic procedures, such as repair of external Congenital Anomalies in the absence of a Functional Impairment. Refer to member specific benefit plan document.

Lysis Intranasal Synechia (CPT Code 30560) is considered reconstructive when:
- There is a documented Functional Impairment (e.g., obstruction, pain or bleeding) due to intranasal Synechia (adhesions/scar bands); and
- The Functional Impairment will be eliminated by lysis of the Synechia.

Repair of Nasal Vestibular Stenosis or Alar Collapse (CPT Code 30465) is considered reconstructive and medically necessary when all of the following criteria are present:
• Prolonged, persistent obstructed nasal breathing due to internal and/or External Nasal Valve compromise (see Definitions section below); and
• Internal valve compromise due to collapse of the upper lateral cartilage and/or External Nasal Valve compromise due to collapse of the alar (lower lateral) cartilage resulting in an anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction that is a primary contributing factor for obstructed nasal breathing; and
• Photos clearly document internal and/or external valve collapse as the primary cause of an anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction and are consistent with the clinical exam; and
• Other causes have been ruled out as the primary cause of nasal obstruction (e.g., sinusitis, allergic rhinitis, vasomotor rhinitis, nasal polyposis, adenoid hypertrophy, nasopharyngeal masses, nasal septal deviation, turbinate hypertrophy and choanal atresia).

Rhinophyma (CPT Code 30120) is considered reconstructive and medically necessary when all of the following criteria are present:
• One of the following:
  o Prolonged, persistent obstructed nasal breathing due to rhinophyma; or
  o Chronic infection or bleeding unresponsive to medical management due to rhinophyma; and
• Photos clearly document rhinophyma as the primary cause of an anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction or chronic infection and are consistent with the clinical exam; and
• The proposed procedure is designed to correct the anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction and relieve the nasal airway obstruction by correcting the deformity or the proposed procedure is designed to address the chronic infection.

Rhinoplasty for Congenital Anomalies (CPT Codes 30460, 30462) is considered reconstructive and medically necessary when the following are present:
• Rhinoplasty is considered reconstructive when performed for a nasal deformity associated with congenital craniofacial anomalies including, but not limited to Pierre Robin, Apert Syndrome, Fraser Syndrome, Binder Syndrome, Goldenhar Syndrome, Nasal dermoids, Tessier Nasal Cleft (most commonly #1) or associated with a cleft lip or cleft palate.

Rhinoplasty-Primary (CPT Codes 30410, 30420) is considered reconstructive and medically necessary when all of the following criteria are present:
• Prolonged, persistent obstructed nasal breathing due to nasal bone and septal deviation that are the primary causes of an anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction; and
• The nasal airway obstruction cannot be corrected by septoplasty alone as documented in the medical record; and
• Photos clearly document the nasal bone/septal deviation as the primary cause of an anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction and are consistent with the clinical exam; and
• The proposed procedure is designed to correct the anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction and relieve the nasal airway obstruction by centralizing the nasal bony pyramid (30410) and also straightening the septum (30420); and
• One of the following is present:
  o Nasal fracture with nasal bone displacement severe enough to cause nasal airway obstruction; or
  o Residual large cutaneous defect following resection of a malignancy or nasal trauma; and
• Obstructive symptoms persist despite conservative management for 4 weeks or greater, which includes, where appropriate, nasal steroids or immunotherapy.

Rhinoplasty-Secondary (CPT Codes 30430, 30435, 30450) is primarily cosmetic. However, it is considered reconstructive and medically necessary when all of the following criteria are present:
• Required as treatment of a complication/residual deformity from primary surgery performed to address a Functional Impairment when a documented Functional Impairment persists due to the complication/deformity (these codes are usually cosmetic); and
• Photos clearly document the secondary deformity/complication as the primary cause of an anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction and are consistent with the clinical exam; and
• The proposed procedure is designed to correct the anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction and relieve the nasal airway obstruction by correcting the deformity or treating the complication (these codes are usually cosmetic); and
• Nasal airway obstruction is causing significant symptoms (e.g., chronic rhinosinusitis, difficulty breathing); and
• Obstructive symptoms persist despite conservative management for 4 weeks or greater, which includes, where appropriate, nasal steroids or immunotherapy.

Rhinoplasty-Tip (CPT Code 30400) is primarily cosmetic. However, it is considered reconstructive and medically necessary when all of the following criteria are present:
• Prolonged, persistent obstructed nasal breathing due to tip drop that is the primary cause of an anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction (this code is usually cosmetic); and
• Photos clearly document tip drop as the primary cause of an anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction and are consistent with the clinical exam (acute columnellar-labial angle); and
• The proposed procedure is designed to correct the anatomic Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction and relieve the nasal airway obstruction by lifting the nasal tip; and
• Nasal airway obstruction is causing significant symptoms (e.g., chronic rhinosinusitis, difficulty breathing); and
• Obstructive symptoms persist despite conservative management for 4 weeks or greater, which includes, where appropriate, nasal steroids or immunotherapy.

**Septal Dermatoplasty (CPT Code 30620) is considered reconstructive when:**
• There is a documented Functional Impairment (e.g., obstruction, pain or bleeding) due to diseased nasal mucosa; and
• The Functional Impairment will be eliminated by a skin graft.

**Potential Required Documentation:**
• Physician office notes, including evaluation and management notes for the date of service and the note for the day the decision to perform surgery was made.
• Radiologic imaging if done.
• Photographs that document the nasal deformity.

**Coverage Limitations and Exclusions**
Oxford excludes Cosmetic Procedures from coverage including but not limited to the following:
• Procedures that correct an anatomical Congenital Anomaly without improving or restoring Physiologic Function are considered Cosmetic Procedures. The fact that a Covered Person may suffer psychological consequences or socially avoidant behavior as a result of an Injury, Sickness or Congenital Anomaly does not classify surgery (or other procedures done to relieve such consequences or behavior) as a reconstructive procedure.
• Rhinoplasty, unless rhinoplasty criteria above are met.
• Any procedure that does not meet the reconstructive criteria.
• Rhinoplasty procedures performed to improve appearance. (Check member specific benefit plan document.)

**DEFINITIONS**

The following definitions may not apply to all plans. Refer to the member specific benefit plan document for applicable definitions.

**Congenital Anomaly:** A physical developmental defect that is present at the time of birth, and that is identified within the first twelve months of birth.

**External Nasal Valve:** The cartilaginous vestibule bounded by nares and lateral alar sidewalls. It is caudal to the internal valve.

**Functional or Physical or Physiological Impairment:** A Functional or Physical or Physiological Impairment causes deviation from the normal function of a tissue or organ. This results in a significantly limited, impaired, or delayed capacity to move, coordinate actions, or perform physical activities and is exhibited by difficulties in one or more of the following areas: physical and motor tasks; independent movement; performing basic life function.

**Mechanical Nasal Airway Obstruction:** Trouble breathing through the nose (not snoring) due to a bony or cartilaginous deformity.

**Prolonged, Persistent Nasal Airway Obstruction:** Trouble breathing through the nose (not snoring) that has not responded to six weeks of medical management such as nasal steroids, antihistamines, and decongestants. Elimination of Rhinitis Medicamentosa as a cause for airway obstruction.

**Reconstructive Surgery:** Defined by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, '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.

**Rhinitis Medicamentosa (RM):** A condition of rebound nasal congestion brought on by extended use of topical decongestants (e.g., oxymetazoline, phenylephrine, xylometazoline, and naphazoline nasal sprays) and certain oral medications (e.g., sympathomimetic amines and various 2-imidazolines) that constrict blood vessels in the lining of the nose.
**Septal Dermatoplasty**: The physician removes diseased intranasal mucosa and replaces it with a separately reportable split thickness graft. The surgery is performed on one nasal side. A lateral rhinotomy is made to expose the intranasal mucosa. The diseased mucosal tissue is excised from the septum, nasal floor, and anterior aspect of the inferior turbinate. A split thickness graft is sutured to the recipient bed, covering the exposed cartilage and submucosal surfaces. Gauze packing and splints are placed in the grafted nasal cavity.

**Synechia**: An adhesion of parts, typically the nasal side wall to the septum.

**APPLICABLE CODES**

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies may apply.

**IMPORTANT**: All nasal surgical claims may be subject to coding review. The following codes may be cosmetic; review is required to determine if considered cosmetic or reconstructive.

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<tr>
<th>CPT Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>30400</td>
<td>Rhinoplasty, primary; lateral and alar cartilages and/or elevation of nasal tip</td>
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<tr>
<td>30410</td>
<td>Rhinoplasty, primary; complete, external parts including bony pyramid, lateral and alar cartilages, and/or elevation of nasal tip</td>
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<tr>
<td>30420</td>
<td>Rhinoplasty, primary; including major septal repair</td>
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<tr>
<td>30430</td>
<td>Rhinoplasty, secondary; minor revision (small amount of nasal tip work)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30435</td>
<td>Rhinoplasty, secondary; intermediate revision (bony work with osteotomies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30450</td>
<td>Rhinoplasty, secondary; major revision (nasal tip work and osteotomies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30460</td>
<td>Rhinoplasty for nasal deformity secondary to congenital cleft lip and/or palate, including columnar lengthening; tip only</td>
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<tr>
<td>30462</td>
<td>Rhinoplasty for nasal deformity secondary to congenital cleft lip and/or palate, including columnar lengthening; tip, septum, osteotomies</td>
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<tr>
<td>30465</td>
<td>Repair of nasal vestibular stenosis (e.g., spreader grafting, lateral nasal wall reconstruction)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30560</td>
<td>Lysis intranasal synechia</td>
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<tr>
<td>30620</td>
<td>Septal or other intranasal dermatoplasty (does not include obtaining graft)</td>
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<tr>
<td>30120</td>
<td>Excision or surgical planing of skin of nose for rhinophyma</td>
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**REFERENCES**

The foregoing Oxford policy has been adapted from an existing UnitedHealthcare Coverage Determination Guideline (CDG) that was researched, developed and approved by the UnitedHealthcare Coverage Determination Committee. [CDG.019.13]


**POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>06/01/2019</td>
<td>Coverage Rationale&lt;br&gt;• Simplified content (no change to guidelines)&lt;br&gt;Supporting Information&lt;br&gt;• Archived previous policy version ENT 005.24 T2</td>
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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE**

This Clinical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare Oxford standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this policy, please check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. UnitedHealthcare Oxford reserves the right to modify its Policies as necessary. This Clinical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

The term Oxford includes Oxford Health Plans, LLC and all of its subsidiaries as appropriate for these policies. Unless otherwise stated, Oxford policies do not apply to Medicare Advantage members.
UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the MCG™ Care Guidelines, to assist us in administering health benefits. UnitedHealthcare Oxford Clinical Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.