

Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery, Surgical 03

Table of Content

[Description & Definitions](#)
[Criteria](#)
[Document History](#)
[Coding](#)
[Special Notes](#)
[References](#)
[Keywords](#)

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Implementation | 6/1/2025 |
| Next Review Date | 3/2026 |
| Coverage Policy | Surgical 03 |
| Version | 8 |

Member-specific benefits take precedence over medical policy and benefits may vary across plans. Refer to the individual's benefit plan for details [*](#).

Description & Definitions:

Cosmetic/plastic surgery is performed for the improvement (shape, size and symmetry) of an individual's appearance or self-esteem for psychological or emotional reasons.

Congenital anomalies are birth defects, congenital disorders or congenital malformations.

Reconstructive and Restorative surgery is performed to alleviate physical functional impairment, persistent skin conditions and interference with an individual's everyday living.

Restoration is a surgical type of procedure of a physical and/or functional condition following an injury or illness to a natural-looking appearance.

Examples include Non-healing pilonidal cyst(s), pre/post cancer treatment correction, acute injury of earlobe, scars that restrict movement. Excludes Gender affirming surgery and Gender dysphoria, refer to Surgical 108.

Criteria:

Reconstructive and Restorative surgery is considered medically necessary for 1 or more of the following:

- Acute injury to the ear lobe(s) which require suturing within 72 hours of injury
- Congenital defects or lesions
- Correction of injury or illness which are causing an anatomical/functional impairment
- Dermabrasion and surgery planned to correct defects resulting removal of superficial basal cell carcinomas and pre-cancerous actinic keratoses disease
- **Excessive skin/redundant tissue removal** with **All of the** following:
 - Functional impairment with **ALL of the** following
 - Recurrent ulceration, and/or intertrigo dermatitis
 - Photographic evidence (with the excess or redundant skin lifted) of conditions refractory to medical therapy (e.g. analgesics, antibiotics, antifungals) for at least 6 months

- Impairment causing restrictions and limitations such as difficulty with walking and Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
- Weight Loss with **1 or more** of the following:
 - Documentation of at least a 100 pound weight loss and stable for at least 3 months
 - Post Bariatric surgery with **ALL** of the following:
 - Documentation of weight loss which is 40% or greater of the excess body weight that was present prior to the bariatric surgery and stable for at least 3 months
 - At least 18 months post-operative, documented stable weight for at least 3 months
- Facial deformities (ie. Lymphangiomas, Hemangiomas) from ongoing growth may be considered by the Medical director on a case-by-case basis.
- Medium and deep chemical peels for Actinic keratoses and other pre-malignant skin lesions
- **Panniculectomy** is considered medically necessary for **ALL** of the following:
 - Documentation of Panniculus with **ALL** of the following:
 - Panniculus hangs below the level of the pubis (Photographs included)
 - Panniculus causes **1 or more** of the following:
 - Skin impairment (Chronic intertrigo, rashes, cellulitis, infections, or non-healing ulcers)
 - Impairment causing restrictions and limitations such as difficulty with walking and Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
 - Prior to surgery, Individual's weight has been addressed, as indicated by stable weight for at least 3 months

In the event an individual is requesting a repeat or correction to a previous procedure undergone for **non-covered cosmetic/plastic surgery** with subsequent physical complication (ie. Infection, adhesions, chronic pain, slow-healing wounds and incisions, tissue necrosis) refer to **member benefit** by the Medical director on a **case-by-case basis**.

Cosmetic/plastic surgery is considered **not medically necessary** for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria, to include but not limited to:

- Abdominal lipectomy (when done independently and not part of an approved panniculectomy procedure)
- Abdominoplasty
- Any procedure for photo-aged skin, wrinkles
- Buttock lift or augmentation
- Cervicoplasty
- Chemical exfoliation for acne and all other indications
- Chemical Peels for Acne scarring, Active Acne Vulgaris, Photoaged skin, Uneven epidermal pigmentation or Wrinkles
- Circumferential Body Lift
- Correction of diastasis recti abdominis
- Cryotherapy (CO2 slush, liquid N2) for acne
- Dermabrasion for post-acne scarring, for tattoos
- Diastasis recti repair
- Electrolysis or laser hair removal
- Fat, or tissue grafting except for Breast Reconstruction, See Policy Surgical 10
- Female Circumcision regardless of the documentation of symptoms
- For Improvement of a member's appearance or self-esteem whether or not for psychological or emotional reasons
- Implants including malar and chin
- Inverted nipple or correction of inverted nipple
- Lipectomies
 - Abdominal lipectomy (when done independently and not part of an approved panniculectomy procedure)
 - Belt Lipectomy
 - Circumferential Lipectomy
 - Suction assisted lipectomy & Suction Lipectomy
- Lipo-abdominoplasty
- Liposuction

- Lower Body Lift
- Mesotherapy (injection of various substances into the tissue beneath the skin to sculpt body contours by lysing subcutaneous fat)
- Mommy makeovers
- Neck tucks
- Removal of frown lines
- Removal of supernumerary nipples (polymastia)
- Repair of diastasis recti
- Restoration of an anatomical defect that does not significantly affect functioning
- Salabrasion-for tattoo removal-cosmetic
- Surgical corrections to the ear are considered cosmetic and not medically necessary when intended to change a physical appearance that would be considered within normal human anatomic variation. (Examples include, but are not limited to, repair of an ear lobe with cleft, accessory tragus, otoplasty, or protruding ears)
- Surgical depigmentation of nevus of Ito or Ota whether by laser treatment or other means
- The excision of suprapubic fat pad and use for tissue grafting for a procedure directed at improving the member's appearance and not restoring proper function of the body
- Torsoplasty
- Umbilicus repair
- Vaginal rejuvenation procedures (designer vaginoplasty, revirgination, G-spot amplification, reduction of labia minora)

Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2025: March – Implementation date of 6.1.2025. Revision of criteria and housekeeping
- 2025: January – Procedure codes updated to align
- 2024: January
- 2022: February
- 2021: January, November
- 2016: March
- 2015: February
- 2014: January, March
- 2013: February, March, June
- 2012: February, June
- 2011: November
- 2009: February
- 2008: February, September
- 2005: December
- 2003: October
- 2001: June
- 2000: December
- 1998: December
- 1994: February

Reviewed Dates:

- 2023: January
- 2020: January
- 2018: April
- 2011: February
- 2010: February
- 2009: September
- 2007: December
- 2006: October
- 2004: October, December
- 2003: September
- 2002: May, September
- 1999: November

- 1996: June
- Effective Date:
- May 1991

Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

| Coding | Description |
|--------|--|
| 12011 | Simple repair of superficial wounds of face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips and/or mucous membranes; 2.5 cm or less |
| 15780 | Dermabrasion; total face (eg, for acne scarring, fine wrinkling, rhytids, general keratosis) |
| 15781 | Dermabrasion; segmental, face |
| 15782 | Dermabrasion; regional, other than face |
| 15783 | Dermabrasion; superficial, any site (eg, tattoo removal) |
| 15788 | Chemical peel, facial; epidermal |
| 15789 | Chemical peel, facial; dermal |
| 15792 | Chemical peel, nonfacial; epidermal |
| 15793 | Chemical peel, nonfacial; dermal |
| 15830 | Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); abdomen, infraumbilical panniculectomy |
| 15832 | Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); thigh |
| 15833 | Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); leg |
| 15834 | Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); hip |
| 15835 | Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); buttock |
| 15836 | Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); arm |
| 15837 | Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); forearm or hand |
| 15838 | Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); submental fat pad |
| 15839 | Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); other area |

| | |
|-------|--|
| 15847 | Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy), abdomen (eg, abdominoplasty) (includes umbilical transposition and fascial plication) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) |
|-------|--|

Considered Not Medically Necessary:

| Coding | Description |
|--------|--|
| 11950 | Subcutaneous injection of filling material (eg, collagen); 1 cc or less |
| 11951 | Subcutaneous injection of filling material (eg, collagen); 1.1 to 5.0 cc |
| 11952 | Subcutaneous injection of filling material (eg, collagen); 5.1 to 10.0 cc |
| 11954 | Subcutaneous injection of filling material (eg, collagen); over 10.0 cc |
| 12011 | Simple repair of superficial wounds of face, ears, eyelids, nose, lips and/or mucous membranes; 2.5 cm or less |
| 15769 | Grafting of autologous soft tissue, other, harvested by direct excision (eg, fat, dermis, fascia) |
| 15771 | Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to trunk, breasts, scalp, arms, and/or legs; 50 cc or less injectate |
| 15772 | Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to trunk, breasts, scalp, arms, and/or legs; each additional 50 cc injectate, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) |
| 15773 | Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to face, eyelids, mouth, neck, ears, orbits, genitalia, hands, and/or feet; 25 cc or less injectate |
| 15774 | Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to face, eyelids, mouth, neck, ears, orbits, genitalia, hands, and/or feet; each additional 25 cc injectate, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) |
| 15819 | Cervicoplasty |
| 15824 | Rhytidectomy; forehead |
| 15825 | Rhytidectomy; neck with platysmal tightening (platysmal flap, P-flap) |
| 15826 | Rhytidectomy; glabellar frown lines |
| 15828 | Rhytidectomy; cheek, chin, and neck |
| 15829 | Rhytidectomy; superficial musculoaponeurotic system (SMAS) flap |
| 15876 | Suction assisted lipectomy; head and neck |
| 15877 | Suction assisted lipectomy; trunk |
| 15878 | Suction assisted lipectomy; upper extremity |
| 15879 | Suction assisted lipectomy; lower extremity |

| | |
|-------|---|
| 17340 | Cryotherapy (CO2 slush, liquid N2) for acne |
| 17360 | Chemical exfoliation for acne (eg, acne paste, acid) |
| 17380 | Electrolysis epilation, each 30 minutes |
| 69300 | Otoplasty, protruding ear, with or without size reduction |

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - approved only products only.

The preceding codes are included above for informational purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Additionally, inclusion or exclusion of a treatment, procedure, or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

Special Notes: *

- Coverage
 - See the appropriate benefit document for specific coverage determination. Member specific benefits take precedence over medical policy.
- Application to products
 - Policy is applicable to Sentara Health Plan Commercial products.
- Authorization requirements
 - If a non-covered cosmetic surgery is performed in the same operative period as a covered surgical procedure, benefits will be provided for the covered surgical procedure only.
 - In the event of a request for repeat surgical intervention when the initial surgery was deemed as an unfavorable cosmetic outcome and an additional surgery is not likely to correct a functional defect, but simply to restore the anatomy close to its previous form, is considered cosmetic and the procedure is not a covered benefit.
- Special Notes:
 - Commercial
 - Medical policies can be highly technical and complex and are provided here for informational purposes. These medical policies are intended for use by health care professionals. The medical policies do not constitute medical advice or medical care. Treating health care professionals are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment, and medical advice. Sentara Health Plan members should discuss the information in the medical policies with their treating health care professionals. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and these medical policies are subject to change without notice, although Sentara Health Plan will notify providers as required in advance of changes that could have a negative impact on benefits.
 - Services mean both medical and behavioral health (mental health) services and supplies unless We specifically tell You otherwise. We do not cover any services that are not listed in the Covered Services section unless required to be covered under state or federal laws and regulations. We do not cover any services that are not Medically Necessary. We sometimes give examples of specific services that are not covered but that does not mean that other similar services are covered. Some services are covered only if We authorize them. When We say You or Your We mean You and any of Your family members covered under the Plan. Call Member Services if You have questions.

References:

UpToDate; Literature Review; Specialty Advisors; National Coverage Determination (NCD); Local Coverage Determination (LCD).

(2024, Mar 14). Retrieved Jan 20, 2025, from MCG 28th Edition:
<https://careweb.careguidelines.com/ed28/index.html>

NCD: Treatment of Actinic Keratosis (2001, Nov 11). Retrieved Jan 20, 2025, from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncd.aspx?ncdid=129&ncdver=1&keywordtype=starts&keyword=actinic&bc=0>

(2025). Retrieved Jan 28, 2025, from Hayes - a symplr company:
<https://evidence.hayesinc.com/search?q=%257B%2522text%2522:%2522home%2520spirometry%2522,%2522title%2522:null,%2522termsource%2522:%2522searchbar%2522,%2522page%2522:%257B%2522page%2522:0,%2522size%2522:50%257D,%2522type%2522:%2522all%2522,%2522sources%2522>

Chapter I - Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services. (2025). Retrieved Jan 28, 2025, from Code of Federal Regulations: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I>

Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines. (2025). Retrieved Jan 20, 2025, from American Society of Plastic Surgeons: <https://www.plasticsurgery.org/for-medical-professionals/quality/evidence-based-clinical-practice-guidelines>

LCD: Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery (L33428). (2021, Jul 29). Retrieved Jan 13, 2025, from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=33428&ver=53&keyword=Cosmetic&keywordType=starts&areaid=s53&docType=NCA,CAL,NCD,MEDCAC,TA,MCD,6,3,5,1,F,P&contractOption=all&sortBy=relevance&bc=1>

Practitioner Manual - Appendix D: Service Authorization Information. (2022, Dec 02). Retrieved Jan 20, 2025, from Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services:
https://vamedicaid.dmas.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/Physician-Practitioner%20Manual%20App%20D%20%28Updated%2012.2.22%29_Final.pdf

Principles of burn reconstruction: Extremities and regional nodal basins. (2024, 12). Retrieved 1 2025, from UpToDate: https://www.uptodate.com/contents/principles-of-burn-reconstruction-extremities-and-regional-nodal-basins?search=Cosmetic%20and%20Reconstructive%20Surgery&source=search_result&selectedTitle=6%7E150&usage_type=default&display_rank=6

Keywords:

Reconstruction, congenital defects, pilonidal cyst, torn ear lobe, reconstructive surgery, excess skin removal, redundant skin removal, SHP Reconstructive Surgery, SHP Surgical 03, cosmetic surgery, bariatric surgery, labiaplasty, vulvectomy, acute injury, traumatic injury, congenital anomalies