



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
www.mass.gov/masshealth

MassHealth
All Provider Bulletin 323
September 2021

TO: All Providers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth [Signature of Amanda Cassel Kraft]

RE: **Updated MassHealth Policies on Gender-Affirming Care Coverage**

Background

This bulletin updates providers on MassHealth's revised and new coverage policies related to gender-affirming care, including gender-affirming surgery (GAS) effective September 1, 2021. MassHealth is dedicated to improving the health outcomes of our members, including transgender and gender diverse members, by providing access to medically necessary services.

What's New?

MassHealth has updated the [Guidelines for Medical Necessity Determination for Gender Affirming Surgery](#). The changes to the guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following:

- MassHealth will cover medically necessary breast reduction surgery as treatment for gender dysphoria for members who meet all criteria listed in the medical necessity guidelines.
- MassHealth will cover medically necessary bilateral mastectomy, breast reduction, and/or chest reconstruction, for members under the age of 18 who satisfy all criteria listed in the medical necessity guidelines.
- MassHealth will require a referral from only one licensed qualified behavioral health professional for covered genital surgeries. In addition to this referral, members seeking covered genital surgeries must also obtain a secondary referral from another licensed health care provider familiar with the member's health.
- MassHealth will cover speech therapy to treat a communication disorder related to a gender dysphoria diagnosis. As with all speech and language therapy, parameters for coverage are outlined in in the [Guidelines for Medical Necessity Determination for Speech and Language Therapy](#).
- MassHealth has updated citations within the guidelines for clinician reference.

Please review the [Guidelines for Medical Necessity Determination for Gender Affirming Surgery](#) in full for details on these changes.

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Additionally, MassHealth will begin covering non-pre-surgical facial and neck hair removal as treatment for gender dysphoria in accordance with the new [MassHealth Guidelines for Medical Necessity Determination for Hair Removal](#).

What's Staying the Same?

As always, the guidelines are based on generally accepted standards of practice; the review of the most recent medical literature; and federal and state policies and laws applicable to Medicaid programs. As before, MassHealth will continue to cover a host of gender-affirming surgeries for MassHealth members who meet the relevant criteria set forth in the guidelines, in accordance with 130 CMR 433.000: *Physician Services* and 130 CMR 450.204: *Medical Necessity*. MassHealth continues to review all requests for prior authorization on an individualized, case-by-case basis.

MassHealth remains committed to ensuring that transgender and gender diverse members have access to all MassHealth-covered benefits free from unlawful discrimination. As a reminder, providers must comply in all respects with 130 CMR 450.202: *Nondiscrimination*, and all other applicable federal and state nondiscrimination laws and regulations. Additionally, MassHealth emphasizes that, except as otherwise provided in 130 CMR 450.130: *Copayments Required by the MassHealth Agency*, providers may not bill a member for any services that are payable under MassHealth.

MassHealth Website

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Questions

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