



PROVIDER POLICIES & PROCEDURES

COSMETIC SURGERY

The purpose of this document is to assist providers enrolled in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) with the information needed to support a medical necessity determination for cosmetic and surgery. By clarifying the information needed for prior authorization of services, HUSKY Health hopes to facilitate timely review of requests so that individuals obtain the medically necessary care they need as quickly as possible.

Cosmetic surgery includes surgical and nonsurgical procedures that enhance and reshape structures of the body for the purpose of improving appearance only and are not considered medically necessary.

CLINICAL GUIDELINE

Coverage guidelines for cosmetic surgery and are made in accordance with the Department of Social Services (DSS) definition of Medical Necessity. The following criteria are guidelines *only*. Coverage determinations are based on an assessment of the individual and their clinical needs. If the guidelines conflict with the definition of Medical Necessity, the definition of Medical Necessity shall prevail. The guidelines are as follows:

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 requires that in patients with breast cancer or a history of breast cancer, all stages of reconstruction of the breast on which a mastectomy was performed, surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce symmetrical appearance, prostheses, and treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy including lymphedema are considered medically necessary.

Therefore, certain procedures/items typically considered cosmetic in nature e.g., breast augmentation, breast implants, nipple prosthetics, mastopexy, tattooing would be considered reconstructive and therefore medically necessary in this instance. (Reference: [HUSKY Health Reconstructive Surgery policy](#))

Additionally, certain procedures typically considered cosmetic in nature and therefore not medically necessary may be considered medically necessary when related to gender affirmation. (Reference: [HUSKY Health Gender Affirmation Surgery policy](#))

Cosmetic surgery is NOT covered for HUSKY Health Program members. The following procedures are considered cosmetic and therefore not medically necessary as their primary purpose is typically to preserve or improve appearance:

- Abdominoplasty
- Body modification repairs or reversal (e.g., repair of stretched earlobes)
- Brachioplasty
- Breast augmentation
- Buttock or thigh lift

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- Canthopexy or canthoplasty
- Cervicoplasty (neck tuck)
- Cheek implant (malar implant/augmentation)
- Chemical peel, facial or nonfacial
- Cryotherapy of skin for treatment of acne
- Deoxycholic acid injection
- Dermabrasion/Microdermabrasion
- Diastasis recti repair
- Electrolysis
- Excessive/redundant skin removal from limbs and other areas of the body
- Facial bone reduction or enhancement
- Facial rejuvenation/plumping/collagen or fat grafts/injections
- Genioplasty (see [HUSKY Health Reconstructive Surgery policy](#) for criteria related to genioplasty to address obstructive sleep apnea)
- Insertion of tissue expander(s) for other than breast
- Hairplasty (hair transplant)
- Injectable dermal fillers used to sculpt body contours
- Injection(s) of sclerosant for spider veins (telangiectasia), limb or trunk
- Intense pulsed light laser for skin redness
- Inverted nipple correction
- Labiaplasty
- Laser hair removal
- Pico laser therapy
- Lip augmentation
- Lipectomy
- Liposuction
- Lower body lift/Belt lipectomy
- Mastopexy
- Mesotherapy
- Otoplasty to improve physical appearance (see [HUSKY Health Reconstructive Surgery policy](#) for criteria related to otoplasty to address a functional deficit)
- Ear/body piercing
- Penis enhancement surgery
- Periorbital osteotomies for orbital hypertelorism (see [HUSKY Health Reconstructive Surgery policy](#) for criteria related to periorbital osteotomies to address a functional deficit)
- Removal of glabellar frown lines
- Revision of peri-implant capsule, breast, including capsulotomy, capsulorrhaphy, and/or partial capsulectomy
- Rhytidectomy
- Skin peel therapy, treatment for acne
- Surgery for body dysmorphic disorder
- Surgery to correct “moon face”
- Tattooing
- Salabrasion (tattoo removal)
- Torsoplasty (body lift)
- Treatment for skin wrinkles

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- Umbilicoplasty (belly button surgery)
- Vaginal rejuvenation procedures

NOTE: EPSDT Special Provision

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid enrollees under 21 years of age where the service or good is medically necessary health care to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition identified through a screening examination. The applicable definition of medical necessity is set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 17b-259b (2011) [ref. CMAP Provider Bulletin PB 2011-36].

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Policy is effective for individuals covered under the HUSKY Health Program beginning November 1, 2021.

LIMITATIONS

N/A

CODES

Code	Description
11920	Tattooing; intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin
11921	Tattooing; intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin, including micropigmentation; 6.1 to 20.0 sq cm
11922	Tattooing; intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin, including micropigmentation; each additional 20.0 sq cm
11950-11954	Subcutaneous injection of filling material (e.g., collagen)
11960	Insertion of tissue expander(s) for other than breast
15775,15776	Punch graft hair transplant, hairplasty
15780-15787	Dermabrasion/Microdermabrasion
15788-15789	Chemical peel, facial
15792-15793	Chemical peel, non-facial
15810, 15811	Salabrasion for tattoo removal
15819	Cervicoplasty (neck tuck)
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 (e.g., Brazilian butt lift)
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);

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	submental fat pad
15839	Excision of excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue, (includes lipectomy); other area (e.g., labiaplasty)
15847	Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy), abdomen (e.g., abdominoplasty)
15876	Liposuction or suction assisted lipectomy of head and neck
15877	Liposuction or suction assisted lipectomy of trunk
15878	Liposuction or suction assisted lipectomy of upper extremity (Brachioplasty)
15879	Liposuction or suction assisted lipectomy of lower extremity
17106-17108	Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions via laser technique, Intense pulsed light (ILP) laser therapy for skin redness (e.g., ILP for facial redness, rosacea)
17340	Cryotherapy of skin for treatment of acne
17360	Skin peel therapy, treatment for acne
17380	Electrolysis epilation
17999	Unlisted procedure of the skin, mucous membrane and subcutaneous tissue (when used for Pico laser therapy)
19300	Removal of breast tissue for gynecomastia
19316	Mastopexy
19325	Breast augmentation with implant
19355	Correction of inverted nipples
19370	Revision of peri-implant capsule, breast, including capsulotomy, capsulorrhaphy, and/or partial capsulectomy
21120	Genioplasty augmentation (autograft, allograft, prosthetic material)
21121	Genioplasty sliding osteotomy, single piece
21122	Genioplasty sliding osteotomies, 2 or more osteotomies
21123	Genioplasty sliding, augmentation with interpositional bone grafts
21208, 21209	Facial bone reduction or enhancement (Osteoplasty)
21270	Cheek implant (malar implant/augmentation)
21280, 21282	Canthopexy (medial, lateral)
22999	Unlisted procedure, abdomen, musculoskeletal system
36468	Single or multiple injections of sclerosing solutions for treatment of spider veins (telangiectasia); limb or trunk
54400-54401; 54405-54406; 54408-54411; 54415-54417	Penile prosthesis
56800	Plastic repair of introitus
57335	Vaginoplasty
67950	Canthoplasty (reconstruction of canthus)
69300	Otoplasty, protruding ear, with or without size reduction
J0591	Injection, deoxycholic acid, 1 mg, to improve the appearance and profile of moderate to severe submental fat (e.g., double chin)

DEFINITIONS

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1. **HUSKY A:** Connecticut children and their parents or a relative caregiver; and pregnant women may qualify for HUSKY A (also known as Medicaid). Income limits apply.
2. **HUSKY B:** Uninsured children under the age of 19 in higher income households may be eligible for HUSKY B (also known as the Children's Health Insurance Program) depending on their family income level. Family cost-sharing may apply.
3. **HUSKY C:** Connecticut residents who are age 65 or older or residents who are ages 18-64 and who are blind, or have another disability, may qualify for Medicaid coverage under HUSKY C (this includes Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (MED-Connect), if working). Income and asset limits apply.
4. **HUSKY D:** Connecticut residents who are ages 19-64 without dependent children and who: (1) do not qualify for HUSKY A; (2) do not receive Medicare; and (3) are not pregnant, may qualify for HUSKY D (also known as Medicaid for the Lowest-Income populations).
5. **HUSKY Health Program:** The HUSKY A, HUSKY B, HUSKY C, HUSKY D and HUSKY Limited Benefit programs, collectively.
6. **HUSKY Limited Benefit Program or HUSKY, LBP:** Connecticut's implementation of limited health insurance coverage under Medicaid for individuals with tuberculosis or for family planning purposes and such coverage is substantially less than the full Medicaid coverage.
7. **Medically Necessary or Medical Necessity:** (as defined in Connecticut General Statutes § 17b-259b) Those health services required to prevent, identify, diagnose, treat, rehabilitate or ameliorate an individual's medical condition, including mental illness, or its effects, in order to attain or maintain the individual's achievable health and independent functioning provided such services are: (1) Consistent with generally-accepted standards of medical practice that are defined as standards that are based on (A) credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature that is generally recognized by the relevant medical community, (B) recommendations of a physician-specialty society, (C) the views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and (D) any other relevant factors; (2) clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, timing, site, extent and duration and considered effective for the individual's illness, injury or disease; (3) not primarily for the convenience of the individual, the individual's health care provider or other health care providers; (4) not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of the individual's illness, injury or disease; and (5) based on an assessment of the individual and his or her medical condition.
8. **Prior Authorization:** A process for approving covered services prior to the delivery of the service or initiation of the plan of care based on a determination by CHNCT as to whether the requested service is medically necessary.

RESOURCES AND REFERENCES:

- American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS). Cosmetic, reconstructive, and plastic surgery descriptions. Accessed June 4, 2021.
- Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies: 17b-262-342 - Goods and Services Not Covered
- UptoDate. Congenital Anomalies of the Ear. Last updated November 11, 2019.
- UptoDate. Overview of Benign Lesions of the Skin. Last updated February 10, 2023.
- Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation. Local Coverage Determination: Removal of Benign Skin Lesions (L35498). Revised 10/31/2019.
- Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/laws-and-regulations/laws/whcra>. Accessed June 2, 2021.

PUBLICATION HISTORY

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Status	Date	Action Taken
Original Publication	September 2021	Approved at the June 23, 2021 CHNCT Medical Reviewer meeting. Approved by the CHNCT Clinical Quality Subcommittee on September 20, 2021. Approved by DSS on September 30, 2021.
Reviewed	September 2022	Reviewed and approved without changes at the July 13, 2022 CHNCT Medical Reviewer meeting. Reviewed and approved without changes by the CHNCT Clinical Quality Subcommittee on September 19, 2022. Approved by DSS on September 28, 2022.
Updated	March 2023	Updates to Clinical Guideline section. Added criteria for excision of tumor, soft tissue of face or scalp. Updates to References section. Changes approved at the March 8, 2023, CHNCT Medical Reviewer meeting. Changes approved by the CHNCT Clinical Quality Subcommittee on March 20, 2023. Approved by DSS on March 27, 2023.
Updated	June 2023	Updated Clinical Guideline section regarding nature of cosmetic procedures, changed to "Cosmetic surgery is NOT covered for HUSKY Health Program members. The following procedures are considered cosmetic as their primary purpose is typically to preserve or improve appearance. Under unique circumstances, these procedures may be considered medically necessary based on an assessment of the individual's specific medical needs". Change approved at the May 10, 2023 CHNCT Medical Reviewer meeting. Change approved at the CHNCT Clinical Quality Subcommittee on June 19, 2023. Approved by DSS on June 28, 2023.
Updated	June 2024	Introduction section updated to clarify and redefine reconstructive and cosmetic procedures. Introduction section also updated to inform HUSKY Health uses InterQual criteria for certain reconstructive procedures that require prior authorization (PA) <u>and will use this policy to review requests for reconstructive procedures for which InterQual® Criteria are not available.</u> Clinical Guideline section updated to include criteria for all reconstructive procedures that do not have InterQual criteria. The Cosmetic procedure list was updated to include all procedures considered as cosmetic that require PA. Procedure section updated to include clinical documentation from the requesting physician, APRN, or PA and inform photographs may be requested by CHNCT. Code section updated to distinguish reconstructive and cosmetic codes reviewed using the policy and reconstructive and cosmetic codes reviewed using InterQual criteria. Changes approved at the June 12, 2024 CHNCT Medical Reviewer meeting. Changes approved by the CHNCT Clinical Quality Subcommittee on June 17, 2024. Approved by DSS on June 26, 2024.
Updated	2025	Policy updated throughout to remove reconstructive surgery. Policy addresses cosmetic surgery only. Separate policy will

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		address reconstructive surgery. Code section updated to remove codes for reconstructive surgery. Changes approved at the March 12, 2025 CHNCT Medical Reviewer meeting. Changes approved by the CHNCT Clinical Quality Subcommittee on March 17, 2025. Approved by DSS on April 3, 2025.
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