Clinical Review Criteria

Restorative and Cosmetic Procedures

- Abdominoplasty
- Panniculectomy

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Criteria

For Medicare Members

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<th>Policy</th>
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<tr>
<td>CMS Coverage Manuals</td>
<td>Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 16 - General Exclusions from Coverage</td>
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<td>National Coverage Determinations (NCD)</td>
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<td>Local Coverage Article</td>
<td>Cosmetic vs. Reconstructive Surgery (A52729)</td>
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For Non-Medicare Members

Cosmetic Surgery is performed to reshape normal structures of the body in order to improve appearance in the absence of a specific functional improvement. Surgery performed to improve on "natural" appearance or performed purely for the purpose of enhancing one’s normal appearance is not considered reasonable and necessary.

Reconstructive Surgery is performed to restore bodily function or to correct a deformity resulting from disease, injury, trauma, birth defects, congenital anomalies, infections, burns or previous medical treatment, such as surgery or radiation therapy. The primary goal is to restore function. Reconstructive surgery is reasonable and necessary to improve the functioning of a malformed body part.

I. Abdominoplasty

1. Abdominoplasties are not covered as they are considered cosmetic.
   i.e. Repair of diastasis recti

   Excision of excessive skin (thigh, leg, hip, buttock, or upper arm) is covered when ALL of the following criteria are met:
   1. Documentation in the medical record of the presence of infections that:
      a. Have been refractory to systemic treatment for bacterial infection control with oral or parenteral antibiotics.
      b. Have required at least two serial office visits for the same occurrence.
      i. If the procedure is being performed following significant weight loss, in addition to meeting the criteria noted above, there should be evidence that the individual has maintained a stable weight for at least six months. If the weight loss is the result of bariatric surgery, procedure should not be performed until at least 18 months after bariatric surgery.
      ii. Excess skin is impairing normal function

Panniculectomy is covered when ALL of the following criteria are met:
1. Must meet criteria for excision of excessive skin (above)
2. Panniculus hangs below the level of the pubis (documented by photographs)
3. Interferes with activities of daily living
4. Not covered when performed in conjunction with abdominal or gynecological procedures (e.g., abdominal hernia repair, hysterectomy, obesity surgery) unless criteria for panniculectomy are met separately.
5. Not covered to minimize the risk of hernia formation or recurrence.

See individual links below for the following potentially cosmetic procedures:
- Blepharoplasty
- Dermatological Procedures
- Poly-L-Lactic Acid Injection (Sculptura)
- Reduction Mammaplasty
- Rhinoplasty
- Breast Reconstruction
- Skin Lesions
- Vein Procedures

The following are considered cosmetic in nature and non-covered under members contact:
- Cervicoplasty (“neck lift”)
- Collagen injection
- Hair Transplant
- Canthoplasty (“outer eyelid lift surgery”)

The following information was used in the development of this document and is provided as background only. It is not to be used as coverage criteria. Please only refer to the criteria listed above for coverage determinations.

Background
Kaiser Permanente coverage contracts exclude cosmetic procedures. However, some procedures may be medically necessary when certain clinical criteria have been met. This document has been created to provide guidance to physicians reviewers when reviewer requests to cover potentially cosmetic services.

Evidence and Source Documents
Member contract

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MDCRPC Medical Director Clinical Review and Policy Committee
MPC Medical Policy Committee

Revision History
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<tr>
<td>Changed Medicare links</td>
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<td>Added definitions for Cosmetic vs. Reconstructive Surgery. Added a list of non-covered cosmetic services</td>
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Codes
Abdominoplasty: 15847
Panniculectomy: 15830
Excision of Excess Skin: 15832, 15833, 15834, 15835, 15836, 15837, 15838, 15839

Review for Cosmetic vs. Reconstructive
Cervicoplasty: 15819
Collagen injection: 11950, 11951, 11952, 11954
Hair Transplant: 15775, 15776
Canthoplasty: 67950
Otoplasty: 69300
Tissue Expanders: 11960, 11970, 11971
Wrinkle Removers: 15824, 15825, 15826, 15828, 15829
Lipectomy: 15876, 15877, 15878, 15879