



## Gender Reassignment Surgery

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### DEFINITIONS

**Gender identity:** The sense of being male or female that is usually in accord with, but sometimes opposed to, physical anatomy.

**Gender dysphoria:** A chronic feeling of emotional discontent due to conflicts with one's birth gender.

**Gender identity disorder:** A strong and persistent cross-gender identification (not concurrent with a physical intersex condition or simply a desire for any perceived cultural advantages of the other sex), marked by persistent discomfort with one's sex, or a sense of inappropriateness in the gender role of that sex, and causing clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas of functioning.

**Transsexuals:** Individuals who have had or wish to have gender reassignment surgery (GRS), or who receive hormone therapy but do not wish to have GRS (nonoperative transsexuals), and live full-time in their new gender role.

**Hormonal gender reassignment:** The administration of androgens to genotypic and phenotypic females and estrogen or progesterones to genotypic or phenotypic males for the purpose of effecting somatic changes to more closely approximate the physical appearance of the genotypically other sex.<sup>1</sup>

**Genital surgical gender reassignment:** Genital surgery that alters the morphology to approximate the physical appearance of the genetically other sex. The following surgical procedures (occurring in the absence of any diagnosable birth defect or other medically defined pathology [except gender dysphoria]) are included in this category:

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<sup>1</sup> Hormonal gender reassignment does not refer to the administration of hormones for the purpose of medical care or research conducted for the treatment or study of non-gender-dysphoric medical conditions (i.e., aplastic anemia, impotence, cancer).

1. Castration.
2. Hysterectomy.
3. Labioplasty.
4. Metoidioplasty.
5. Oophorectomy.
6. Orchiectomy.
7. Penectomy.
8. Phalloplasty.
9. Salpingectomy.
10. Urethrostomy.
11. Vaginectomy.
12. Vaginoplasty.

Genital electrolysis is not considered a surgical procedure but is performed in conjunction with genital surgery.

**Nongenital surgical gender reassignment:** Any other surgical procedures involving nongenital sites (e.g., breasts, skin, nose, throat, chin, cheeks, hips or waist) that may be performed to effect a more masculine appearance in a genetic female or a more feminine appearance in a genetic male.

## Guideline

Members are eligible for GRS coverage when **all** of the following criteria are met:

1. ≥ 18 years of age.
2. Satisfaction of **all** of the following diagnostic criteria for “true” transsexualism:
  - A sense of estrangement from one’s own body, so that any evidence of one’s own biological sex is viewed as repulsive.
  - A stable transsexual orientation, as evidenced by a desire to eradicate one’s genitals and assimilate into society as a member of the opposite sex lasting at least 2 years (not limited to periods of stress).
  - Absence of physical intersex or genetic abnormality.
  - Desire to construct one’s body as congruently as possible with the preferred sex through surgery and hormone treatment.
  - Inability to achieve sexual arousal from cross-dressing.
  - Life-long sense of belonging to the opposite sex and of having been born into the incorrect sex (often since childhood).
  - The above must not be attributable to another biological, chromosomal or associated psychiatric disorder, such as schizophrenia.
3. Member has completed a program of gender identity treatment, as evidenced by **all** of the following:
  - Successful completion of at least 12 months of living and working within the desired gender role on a full-time basis (real-life experience simulation) without periods of reverting to the original gender.

- Receipt of at least 12 months of continuous hormonal gender reassignment therapy, as recommended by a mental health professional and carried out by an endocrinologist, unless medically contraindicated (can be simultaneous with the real-life experience).
- GRS recommendation by a qualified mental health professional who is acquainted with the patient for ≥ 18 months (providing the Plan with a comprehensive written evaluation).<sup>2</sup>
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> concurring recommendation by another qualified mental health professional<sup>3</sup> must be documented as a written expert opinion<sup>4</sup>.
- Psychotherapy is not an absolute prerequisite for surgery unless the mental health professional's initial assessment leads to a psychotherapy recommendation that specifies treatment goals, frequency estimation and duration throughout the real life experience (usually a 3-month minimum).
- Urological exam completion to identify and possibly treat any abnormalities of the genitourinary (GU) tract, as genital surgical sex reassignment includes the invasion and alteration of the GU tract.
- Completion of a presurgical consent form indicating the member's comprehension of the proposed GRS in conjunction with its attendant costs, required length of hospitalization, potential complications and postsurgical rehabilitation requirements.

### Applicable Diagnosis Codes

302.50	Trans-sexualism with unspecified sexual history
302.51	Trans-sexualism with asexual history
302.53	Trans-sexualism with homosexual history
302.85	Gender identity disorder in adolescents or adults

### Applicable Procedure Codes

15770	Graft; derma-fat-fascia
19301	Mastectomy, partial (eg, lumpectomy, tylectomy, quadrantectomy, segmentectomy)
19303	Mastectomy, simple, complete
19304	Mastectomy, subcutaneous
19316	Mastopexy
19318	Reduction mammoplasty
19324	Mammoplasty, augmentation; without prosthetic implant

<sup>2</sup> Members should be ruled out for surgery if any of the following are applicable:

1. Active substance abusers within 6 months of surgery.
2. Active suicidal ideation or failed suicide attempt 1 year prior to surgery.
3. Inpatient psychiatric hospitalization 1 year prior to surgery.
4. Positive diagnosis of psychotic disorder (eg., schizophrenia, psychotic disorder not otherwise specified or schizoaffective disorder).

<sup>3</sup> At least one of the two clinical behavioral scientists endorsing the surgical (genital and breast) sex reassignment must possess a doctoral degree (e.g., PhD, EdD, DSc, DSW, PsyD or MD).

<sup>4</sup> Either two separate letters or one letter with two signatures is acceptable.

19325	Mammaplasty, augmentation; with prosthetic implant
19340	Immediate insertion of breast prosthesis following mastopexy, mastectomy or in reconstruction
19342	Delayed insertion of breast prosthesis following mastopexy, mastectomy or in reconstruction
19350	Nipple/areola reconstruction
31750	Tracheoplasty; cervical
53430	Urethroplasty, reconstruction of female urethra
54125	Amputation of penis; complete
54520	Orchiectomy, simple (including subcapsular), with or without testicular prosthesis, scrotal or inguinal approach
54660	Insertion of testicular prosthesis (separate procedure)
54690	Laparoscopy, surgical; orchiectomy
55150	Resection of scrotum
55175	Scrotoplasty; simple
55180	Scrotoplasty; complicated
55970	Intersex surgery; male to female
55980	Intersex surgery; female to male
56620	Vulvectomy simple; partial
56625	Vulvectomy simple; complete
56800	Plastic repair of introitus
56805	Clitoroplasty for intersex state
57106	Vaginectomy, partial removal of vaginal wall
57107	Vaginectomy, partial removal of vaginal wall; with removal of paravaginal tissue
57110	Vaginectomy, complete removal of vaginal wall
57111	Vaginectomy, complete removal of vaginal wall; with removal of paravaginal tissue (radical vaginectomy)
57291	Construction of artificial vagina; without graft
57292	Construction of artificial vagina; with graft
57335	Vaginoplasty for intersex state
57530	Trachelectomy (cervicectomy), amputation of cervix (separate procedure)
58150	Total abdominal hysterectomy (corpus and cervix), with or without removal of tube(s), with or without removal of ovary(s)
58180	Supracervical abdominal hysterectomy (subtotal hysterectomy), with or without removal of tube(s), with or without removal of ovary(s)
58260	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less
58262	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s)
58263	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s), with repair of enterocele
58270	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with repair of enterocele
58275	Vaginal hysterectomy, with total or partial vaginectomy

58280	Vaginal hysterectomy, with total or partial vaginectomy; with repair of enterocele
58290	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g;
58291	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58292	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s), with repair of enterocele
58294	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with repair of enterocele
58541	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less
58542	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58543	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g
58544	Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58550	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less
58552	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58553	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g
58554	Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58570	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less
58571	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus 250 g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58572	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g
58573	Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
58661	Laparoscopy, surgical; with removal of adnexal structures (partial or total oophorectomy and/or salpingectomy)
58720	Salpingo-oophorectomy, complete or partial, unilateral or bilateral (separate procedure)
58940	Oophorectomy, partial or total, unilateral or bilateral

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