



Policy Number: MP.079.MPC  
Last Review Date: 09/14/2023  
Effective Date: 10/01/2023

## MP.079 - Cosmetic versus Reconstructive Services

Maryland Physicians Care considers **Reconstructive Services** medically necessary for either of the following:

1. When the procedure is intended to primarily improve, restore, or maintain bodily function as a result of an infection or disease;  
OR
2. The procedure is intended to correct a congenital disease or anomaly that has resulted in a significant functional impairment.

### Limitations

1. When a medical problem results from covered or non-covered cosmetic procedures, medically necessary services required to treat the medical problem will be determined by the health plan.
2. Common, anticipated side effects of cosmetic surgery (e.g., nausea and vomiting which result in a prolonged hospital stay) are considered part of the cosmetic surgery procedure and are **not** eligible for additional coverage.

### Background

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) defines a reconstructive service as a procedure or surgery that is performed on abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors or disease. It is generally performed to improve functions but may also be done to approximate a normal appearance. These services differ from cosmetic services, which ASPS defines as a procedure or surgery (surgical and nonsurgical) that reshape normal structures of the body in order to improve appearance and self-esteem.

Note: Coverage of reconstructive procedures is decided based on the applicable definition of medical necessity of the member's type of insurance and the Prior Authorization (PA), Medical Payment (MP) or Pharmacy (RX.PA) policy which governs the particular procedure or service.

### References

1. American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS). Cosmetic Procedures: Choose a Procedure. ©2017, ASAPS.  
<http://www.surgery.org/consumers/procedures>
2. American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS): Cosmetic Procedures. © 2023 ASPS.  
<http://www.plasticsurgery.org/cosmetic-procedures.html>

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3. American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS): Reconstructive Procedures. © 2023 ASPS.  
<http://www.plasticsurgery.org/reconstructive-procedures.html>
4. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) No. L34938- Removal of Benign or Premalignant Skin Lesions. (Contractor: Novitas Solutions, Inc.) Revision Effective Date: 09/26/2019.  
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=34938&ver=68&Date=&DocID=L34938&bc=iAAAABAAAAA&A&>
5. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) No. L39051 – Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery. Revision Effective Date: 11/14/2021.  
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=39051&ver=3&bc=0>
6. CMS Medicare Home Health Agency Manual: Section 232.11 Cosmetic Surgery, Transmittal 301. Date: June 6, 2002.  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R301HHA.pdf>
7. The American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS). Facial Plastic Surgery: Procedures Types. ©2017 AAFPRS. Accessed: January 2020.  
<https://www.aafprs.org/AAFPRS/Procedures/Home.aspx>

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### Attachment A

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The following list contains examples of procedures and services considered to be cosmetic in nature and therefore **not** covered, except when indicated in the identified PA, MP, or RX.PA Policy in Column III.

This list should not be considered inclusive. The following codes for treatments and procedures applicable to this policy are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure, diagnosis or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement policy. 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.

I Procedure	II Codes for Procedures in Column NOT covered	III Exception for Coverage
Acne, treatment of acne cysts and Acne, comedone extraction/treatment	10040 Acne surgery (e.g., marsupialization, opening or removal of multiple milia, comedones, cysts, pustules) 17340 Cryotherapy (CO2 slush, liquid N2) for acne 17360 Chemical exfoliation for acne (e.g., acne paste, acid)	17340, 17360 covered with pre-authorization
Actinic keratosis, destruction, unless suspicious of malignancy	Informational only No codes for configuration because of potential medical necessity	
Age spot treatments ( <b>SEE:</b> Skin lesions, excision of benign)		
Alopecia treatment ( <b>SEE:</b> Hair Transplant)		This may be reviewed on a case by case basis for medical necessity.
Arm, forearm, hand lift		

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Procedure	Codes for Procedures in Column NOT covered	Exception for Coverage
(SEE: Lipectomy)		
Birthmark/ blemish treatment (SEE: Skin lesions, excision of benign)		
Blepharoplasty lower lid	15820 Blephroplasty, lower eyelid lid 15821 Blephroplasty, lower eyelid lid with extensive herniated fat pad	
Body contouring after major weight loss for men (SEE: Lipectomy)		
Body lift (SEE: Lipectomy)		
Body piercing	No specific code for this	
Botox treatments		Pre-authorization is required for:  OnabotulinumtoxinA (Botox®), AbobotulinumtoxinA (Dysport™), RimabotulinumtoxinB (Myobloc®), and IncobotulinumtoxinA (Xeomin®)
Breast asymmetry, correction of. <i>Except in the case of breast cancer</i>		<b>SEE: MP.046 - Breast Reconstruction</b>

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Procedure	Codes for Procedures in Column NOT covered	Exception for Coverage
Breast reconstruction. <i>Except in the case of breast cancer</i>		<b>SEE: MP.046</b> - Breast Reconstruction
Breast augmentation/lift/implants. <i>Except in the case of breast cancer</i>		<b>SEE: MP.046</b> Breast Reconstruction
Breast reduction		
Breast repositioning		<b>SEE: MP.046</b> Breast Reconstruction
Brow lift/ptosis repair		
Buttock lift ( <b>SEE:</b> Lipectomy)		
Cheek implant ( <b>SEE:</b> Malar (facial) implants)		
Chemical peel	15788 Chemical peel, facial; epidermal 15789 Chemical peel, facial; dermal 15792 Chemical peel, nonfacial; epidermal 15793 Chemical peel, nonfacial; dermal	15789, 15792, 15793 covered with prior authorization.
Chest wall deformity, congenital (pectus excavatum, pectus carinatum) when asymptomatic	No specific code for this	Treatment for pectus excavatum is considered medically necessary when the member has a Haller

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		<p>score of 3.25 or higher on Computed Tomography (CT) scan.</p> <p>Treatment for pectus carinatum is considered medically necessary when member has symptoms indicating medical necessity for surgery which include: severe shortness of breath on minimal exertion, reduced endurance, and exercise-induced asthma.</p>
Chin implant or surgery for deformity, not cause by trauma or accidental injury ( <b>SEE:</b> Genioplasty)		
Collagen replacement therapy: injections or implants	<p>11950 Subcutaneous injection of filling material (e.g. collagen): 1cc or less</p> <p>11951 1.5 to 5 cc</p> <p>11952 5.1 to 10 cc</p> <p>11954 10 cc or more</p>	
Comedone acne extraction ( <b>SEE:</b> Acne)		
Congenital abnormalities without functional impairment	No specific code for this	

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Dental congenital abnormalities	No specific code for this	
Dermoid cyst (when not medically necessary)	30124 Excision of dermoid cyst, nose: simple, skin, subcutaneous	Covered. Pre-authorization required for non-participating providers only.
Dermabrasion	15780 Dermabrasion; total face (e.g., for acne scarring, fine wrinkling, rhytids, general keratosis) 15781 Dermabrasion; segmental, face 15782 Dermabrasion; regional, other than face 15783 Dermabrasion; superficial, any site, (e.g., tattoo removal)	
Dermal filler and volume producing agents (i.e., Sculptra, Radiesse)	G0429 Derm filler injection for treatment facial lypodystrophy Q2026 Injection, Radiesse 11950 Subcutaneous injection of filling material (e.g., collagen); 1 cc or less 11951 Subcutaneous injection of filling material (e.g., collagen); 1.1 to 5.0 cc 11952 Subcutaneous injection of filling material (e.g., collagen); 5.1 to 10.0 cc 11954 Subcutaneous injection of filling material (e.g., collagen); over 10.0 cc	G0429 & Q2026 covered with pre-authorization

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Dermoscopy	No specific code for this	
Ear piercing	69090 Ear piercing	
Ear protrusion correction ( <b>SEE:</b> Otoplasty)		
Electrolysis epilation /hair removal ( <b>SEE:</b> Hair Removal)		
Excision of redundant (excess) skin and subcutaneous tissue of the hips, thighs, buttocks, arms and other anatomical areas when there is not a functional physical impairment ( <b>SEE:</b> Lipectomy)		
Excision/surgical planing of skin of nose for rhinophyma ( <b>SEE:</b> Rhinophyma)		
Eyelid surgery (Blepharoplasty, brow lifts, ptosis repair)		
Face lift or related procedures to diminish the aging process ( <b>SEE:</b> Rhytidectomy)		



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Procedure	Codes for Procedures in Column NOT covered	Exception for Coverage
Fat graft, unless an integral part of another covered procedure		
Forehead lift ( <b>SEE:</b> Rhytidectomy)		
Frown Line reduction (Refer to Glabella)		
Genioplasty ( <b>SEE:</b> Rhytidectomy and Lipectomy)	21120 Genioplasty: augmentation (autograft, allograft, augmentation)	Covered with pre-authorization
Glabella/Glabelloplasty (frown lines), excision/correction ( <b>SEE:</b> Rhytidectomy)	21137 Reduction forehead; contouring only 21138 Reduction forehead; contouring and application of prosthetic material or bone graft (includes obtaining autograft) 21139 Reduction forehead; contouring and setback of anterior frontal sinus wall	Covered with pre-authorization
Gynecomastia reduction/treatment		
Hair Removal (hirsutism)	17380 Electrolysis epilation, each 30 minutes	
Hair Transplant (Hairplasty) or repair of any congenital or acquired hair loss, including hair analysis	15775 Punch graft for hair transplant; 1 to 15 punch grafts	

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Procedure	Codes for Procedures in Column NOT covered	Exception for Coverage
	15776 Punch graft for hair transplant; more than 15 punch grafts	
Hemangioma treatment <i>Except when atypical or causing functional limitation (i.e. affects vision, breathing, hearing, ability to eat, bleeding, ulceration, and/or infection.</i>	17106 Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions( e.g., laser technique); less than 10 sq cm	Covered with pre-authorization
Hip Lift ( <b>SEE:</b> Lipectomy)		
Hyperhidrosis surgery including endoscopic transthoracic sympathecotomy (ETS), sympathectomy (radial artery, ulnar nerve, superficial palmar arch), video assisted thoracic sympathectomy (VATS)		<b>SEE: MP.036 -</b> Iontophoresis
Injectable fillers ( <b>SEE:</b> Dermal fillers)		
Insertion or injection of prosthetic material to replace absent adipose tissue. <i>Except for breast cancer</i>		<b>SEE: MP.046 -</b> Breast Reconstruction
Keloid scar treatment ( <b>SEE:</b> Scar Revision)		
Labial reduction / labiaplasty	No specific code for this	

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Laser band-aid face lift	No specific code for this	
Laser facial resurfacing ( <b>SEE:</b> Dermabrasion)	No specific code for this	
Laser hair removal ( <b>SEE:</b> Hair Removal)		
LAVIV™ (azfibrocel-T) injections	No specific code for this	
Leg lift ( <b>SEE:</b> Lipectomy)		
Lipectomy (including suction lipectomy)	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	15832 through 15839 covered with pre-authorization.

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	15839 Excision, excessive skin and subcutaneous tissue (includes lipectomy); other area	
Liposuction unless an integral part of another covered procedure	15876 Suction assisted lipectomy; head and neck 15877 Suction assisted lipectomy; trunk 15878 Suction assisted lipectomy; upper extremity 15879 Suction assisted lipectomy; lower extremity	
Malar (facial) implants	No specific code for this	
Mastopexy ( breast lift for pendulous breasts)		<b>SEE: MP.046 - Breast Reconstruction</b>
Mentoplasty ( <b>SEE:</b> Genioplasty)		
Moles /nevi, excision <i>Except when medically necessary when there is clinical suspicion for pre-cancerous or cancerous lesions.</i>	No specific code for this	
Neck tuck or lift ( <b>SEE:</b> Lipectomy and Rhytidectomy)		
Moon face correction ( as a result of corticosteroid therapy)	No specific code for this	

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Nasal septum cartilage graft	20912 Cartilage graft, nasal septum	Covered with pre-authorization.
Obesity surgery		<b>SEE: PA.040</b> Bariatric Procedures
Otoplasty	69300 Otoplasty, protruding ear, with or without size reduction	Covered with pre-authorization
Pectus excavatum repair when asymptomatic ( <b>SEE:</b> Chest wall deformity)		
Permanent makeup ( <b>SEE:</b> Tattoo)		
Port wine stain treatment <i>Except when atypical or causing functional limitation (i.e. affects vision, breathing, hearing, ability to eat, bleeding, ulceration, and/or infection. (SEE: Hemangioma treatment)</i>		
Radial keratotomy when defect can be corrected with lenses	65771 Radial Keratotomy	
Rhinoplasty	30400 Rhinoplasty; primary; lateral & alar cartilages and/or elevation of nasal tip 30410 Rhinoplasty; complete; external parts including bony pyramid; lateral & alar cartilages &/or elevation of nasal tip. 30450 Rhinoplasty, secondary, major revision	<b>SEE: MP.038</b> - Septoplasty/Rhinoplasty  Pre-auth required for non-participating providers only.

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Refractive keratoplasty/eye surgery (LASIK, PTK)	65760 Keratomileusis (LASIK) 65765 Keratophakia 65767 Epikeritoplasty	Covered with pre-authorization
Rhinophyma treatment/excision	30120 Excision or surgical planing of skin of nose for rhinophyma	Covered. Pre-authorization required for non-participating providers only.
Removal of unwanted/excessive hair growth ( <b>SEE:</b> Hair Removal)		
Rhytidectomy (face, chin, neck, browlift)	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	
Rosacea, treatment of (including erythema, telangiectasia) <i>Except when atypical or causing functional limitation</i>	Codes are the same as Hemangioma	
Salabrasion (tattoo removal) ( <b>SEE:</b> Tattoo)		

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Scar revision <i>Except when atypical or causing functional limitation (i.e. affects vision, breathing, hearing, ability to eat, bleeding, ulceration, and/or infection.</i>	15786 Abrasion; single lesion (e.g., keratosis, scar)  15787 Abrasion; each additional four lesions or less	
Sclerosing of Spider Veins <b>(SEE: Spider vein removal/repair)</b>		
Septoplasty		<b>SEE: MP.038 – Septoplasty/Rhinoplasty</b>
Septorhinoplasty		<b>SEE: MP.038 - Septoplasty-Rhinoplasty</b>
Skin discoloration (including dyschromia, and treatment)	No specific code for this	
Skin lesions, excision of benign <i>Except when atypical or causing functional limitation (i.e. affects vision, breathing, hearing, ability to eat, bleeding, ulceration, and/or infection; OR Except when medically necessary when there is clinical suspicion for pre-cancerous or cancerous lesions.</i>	Informational only No codes for configuration because of potential medical necessity	

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Skin removal for excessive/redundant skin. <i>Except for breast cancer</i> ( <b>SEE:</b> Lipectomy)		<b>SEE: MP.046</b> - Breast Reconstruction
Skin rejuvenation and resurfacing ( <b>SEE:</b> Dermabrasion)	No specific code for this	
Spider vein removal/repair, including telangiectasia and stellate angioma	36468 Single or multiple injections of sclerosing solutions, spider veins (telangiectasia), limb or trunk	Covered with pre-authorization.
Skin tag removal, Except when atypical or causing functional limitation (i.e. affects vision, bleeding, ulceration, and/or infection.	Informational only No codes for configuration because of potential medical necessity	
Subcutaneous injection of filling material ( e.g. Restylane, Collagen, Hyaluronic acid) ( <b>SEE:</b> Dermal fillers)		Hyaluronic Acid Products
Surgical repair of inverted nipple		<b>SEE: MP.046</b> - Breast Reconstruction
Tattoo (decorative or self induced) removal/treatment	No specific code for this	<b>SEE: MP.046</b> - Breast Reconstruction
Thigh lift ( <b>SEE:</b> Lipectomy)		



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Temporal Mandibular Joint (TMJ), non surgical treatment		<b>SEE: MP.016</b> - TMJ
Tissue expansion, when not medically necessary		<b>SEE: MP.046</b> - Breast Reconstruction
Torn earlobe repair	No specific code for this	
Umbilectomy, omphalectomy, excision of umbilicus (separate procedure)	49250 Umbilectomy, omphalectomy, excision of umbilicus	Covered with pre-authorization.
Varicose veins, removal of spider veins (telangiectasia)		
Voice lifting procedures (To restore voice to youthful quality, implants, injections of fat or collagen)		<b>SEE MP.112</b> – Laryngeal Inj for Vocal Cord Augmentation
XEOMIN® (incobotulinumtoxinA) injections when used to improve the appearance of glabellar lines		OnabotulinumtoxinA (Botox®), AbobotulinumtoxinA (Dysport™), RimabotulinumtoxinB (Myobloc®), and IncobotulinumtoxinA (Xeomin®)