



Gender Affirmation Services

Clinical Coverage Criteria

Overview

Gender Dysphoria is defined as discomfort or distress that is caused by a discrepancy between a person's gender identity and the person's assigned sex at birth. Treatment of Gender Dysphoria is often individualized with a variety of treatments producing varied results in individuals.

Gender Affirmation services include hormone replacement therapy, evaluation and treatment for side effects of hormone replacement therapy, genital (male-to-female or female-to-male) surgical procedures, and non-genital (male-to-female or female-to-male) surgical procedures, which take place in a stepwise fashion.

Fallon Health monitors and follows the treatment standards published in the most recent version of The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's Standards of Care for Gender Identity Disorders, Seventh Version, available at the World Professional Association for Transgender Health website: [WPATH](#)

Policy

For certain Gender Affirmation Services Prior Authorization is required. Additionally, services outside of the member's specific plan network may require prior authorization. Please note hormone therapy is a pharmacy benefit and coverage of hormone therapy is dependent upon the member's pharmacy benefit.

Puberty Suppression Hormone Therapy:

Adolescents with gender non-conformity or diagnosed gender dysphoria often begin hormone therapy at the onset of puberty. Given puberty suppression is reversible it allows an adolescent the ability to fully explore their gender non-conformity and make informed decisions regarding future treatment. Puberty Suppression hormone treatments are overseen by a Pediatric Endocrinologist and often a Mental Health professional.

In accordance with WPATH the below minimal criteria must be met

1. The adolescent has demonstrated a long-lasting and intense pattern of gender nonconformity or gender dysphoria (whether suppressed or expressed);
2. Gender dysphoria emerged or worsened with the onset of puberty;
3. Any coexisting psychological, medical, or social problems that could interfere with treatment (e.g., that may compromise treatment adherence) have been addressed, such that the adolescent's situation and functioning are stable enough to start treatment;
4. The adolescent has given informed consent and, particularly when the adolescent has not reached the age of medical consent, the parents or other caretakers or guardians have consented to the treatment and are involved in supporting the adolescent throughout the treatment process.

Masculinization/Feminization Hormone Therapy:

Hormone therapy designed to masculinize or feminize is done when there is a clear, documented diagnosis of gender dysphoria. This type of hormone therapy results in physical changes to align with the patients desired gender and can carry potential health risks. Changes vary over time from patient to patient though most changes occur over the course of two years.

In accordance with WPATH Standards the below criteria must be met.

1. Persistent, well-documented gender dysphoria;
2. Capacity to make a fully informed decision and to consent for treatment;
3. Age of majority in a given country as such 18. (Medical Directors will review on a case by case basis any clinical exceptions to the age requirement)
4. If significant medical or mental health concerns are present, they must be reasonably well-controlled.

Surgical Procedures:

Prior Authorization is required and is dependent on coverage under the member's particular plan's benefits. This specific criteria set applies to mastectomies for Female to Male, breast augmentations for Male to Female, and all genital surgeries. Fallon Health may authorize the coverage of transgender surgery procedures when all of the following criteria are met, the request must be supported by the treating provider(s) medical records:

1. The member is 18 years of age or older;
2. Has a definitive diagnosis of persistent Gender Dysphoria that has been made and documented by a qualified licensed mental health professional such as a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist or other licensed physician experienced in the field. Fallon Health reserves the right to request the credentials of this mental health professional.
3. The member has received continuous hormone therapy for 12 months or more under the supervision of a physician with documentation of the member's compliance and the type, frequency, and route of administration;
4. The member has lived as their chosen or reassigned gender full-time for 12 months or more; (3 and 4 may occur concurrently)
5. For gender reassignment surgery, the member's medical and mental health providers document that there are no contraindications to the planned surgery and agree with the plan.

*In accordance with WPATH Guidelines hormone therapy is not required for a Female to Male breast/chest surgery (mastectomy/creation of a male chest)

There are various other procedures commonly associated with Gender Affirmation Surgery. Fallon Health recognizes these procedures bring patients into a wide range of accepted appearances of their desired gender. While Fallon Health maintains a Cosmetic Surgery Clinical Coverage Criteria policy that applies to these procedures consideration will be given to how the procedure will affect gender identity.

Infertility procedures are addressed in Fallon Health's Infertility Clinical Coverage Criteria.

Exclusions

- The reversal of any of the procedures listed above.
- Voice therapy lessons.

Codes

Code type	Code	Description
CPT	55970	Intersex Surgery, male to female
	55980	Intersex Surgery, female to male

Male to Female	Code	Description
CPT	19324	Mammoplasty, augmentation; without prosthetic implant
	19325	Mammoplasty, augmentation; with prosthetic implant
	19350	Nipple/areola reconstruction
	54120	Amputation of penis, partial
	54125	Amputation of penis, complete
	54520	Orchiectomy, simple (including subcapsular), with or without testicular prosthesis, scrotal or inguinal approach
	54690	Laparoscopy, surgical orchiectomy
	56800	Plastic repair introitus
	56805	Clitoroplasty for intersex state
	57291	Construction of artificial vagina; without graft
	57292	Construction of artificial vagina; with graft
	57335	Vaginoplasty for intersex state

Female to Male	Code	Description
CPT	19303	Mastectomy, simple, complete
	19304	Mastectomy, subcutaneous
	19316	Mastopexy
	53430	Urethroplasty, reconstruction of female urethra
	56625	Vulvectomy simple; complete
	57110	Vaginectomy, complete removal of vaginal wall
	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 grams or less
	58262	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 grams or less; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s)
	58275	Vaginal hysterectomy, with total or partial vaginectomy
	58290	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 grams
	58291	Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250 grams; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s)

	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 grams or less;
	58552	Laparoscopy surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250 grams 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 grams; with removal of tube(s), and/or ovary(s)
	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

References

1. Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association. The standards of care for gender identity disorders, seventh version. World Professional Association for Transgender Health.
2. American Psychiatric Association. Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM-5). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.
3. Berry MG, Curtis R, Davies D. Female-to-male transgender chest reconstruction: a large consecutive, single-surgeon experience. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg*. 2012;65(6):711-719.
4. Cregten-Escobar P, Bouman MB, Buncamper ME, Mullender MG. Subcutaneous mastectomy in female-to-male transsexuals: a retrospective cohort-analysis of 202 patients. *J Sex Med*. 2012;9(12):3148-3153.
5. Garaffa G, Christopher NA, Ralph DJ. Total phallic reconstruction in female-to-male transsexuals. *Eur Urol*. 2010;57(4):715-722.
6. Hayes Inc. Hayes Directory: Sex Reassignment Surgery for the Treatment of Gender Dysphoria Published August 22, 2019
7. Selvaggi G, Bellringer J. Gender reassignment surgery: an overview. *Nat Rev Urol*. 2011;8(5):274-282.
8. Wilczynski C, Emanuele MA. Treating a transgender patient: overview of the guidelines. *Postgrad Med*. 2014 Nov;126(7):121-8. doi: 10.3810/pgm.2014.11.2840.

9. Kääriäinen M, Salonen K, Helminen M, Karhunen-Enckell U. Chest-wall contouring surgery in female-to-male transgender patients: A one-center retrospective analysis of applied surgical techniques and results. *Scand J Surg.* 2016 Apr 22. pii: 1457496916645964.
10. Morrison SD, Chen ML, Crane CN. An overview of female-to-male gender-confirming surgery. *Nat Rev Urol.* 2017 Aug;14(8):486-500. doi: 10.1038/nrurol.2017.64.
11. Ammari T, Sluiter EC, Gast K, Kuzon WM Jr. Female-to-Male Gender-Affirming Chest Reconstruction Surgery. *Aesthet Surg J.* 2019 Jan 17;39(2):150-163. doi: 10.1093/asj/sjy098
12. Karasic DH, Fraser L. Multidisciplinary Care and the Standards of Care for Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Individuals. *Clin Plast Surg.* 2018 Jul;45(3):295-299. doi: 10.1016/j.cps.2018.03.016.
13. Wernick JA, Busa S, Matouk K, Nicholson J, Janssen A. A Systematic Review of the Psychological Benefits of Gender-Affirming Surgery. *Urol Clin North Am.* 2019 Nov;46(4):475-486. doi: 10.1016/j.ucl.2019.07.002. Epub 2019 Aug 21.

Policy History

Origination date: 10/01/2013
 Approval(s): Benefit Oversight Committee: 11/13/2013
 Technology Assessment Committee: 07/23/2014 (adopted as Clinic Coverage Criteria) 12/03/2014 (updated language surrounding Cosmetic Procedures) 01/27/2016 (updated references, added clarification language surrounding hormone therapy, female to male breast/chest surgeries no longer require hormone therapy as pre-requisite) 10/26/2016 (clarified which criteria applies to breast surgeries, updated references) 10/25/2017 (updated references), 10/11/2018 (updated references), 10/23/2019 (policy name changed from Transgender Services to Gender Affirmation Services, updated references)

Not all services mentioned in this policy are covered for all products or employer groups. Coverage is based upon the terms of a member's particular benefit plan which may contain its own specific provisions for coverage and exclusions regardless of medical necessity. Please consult the product's Evidence of Coverage for exclusions or other benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. If there is any discrepancy between this policy and a member's benefit plan, the provisions of the benefit plan will govern. However, applicable state mandates take precedence with respect to fully-insured plans and self-funded non-ERISA (e.g., government, school boards, church) plans. Unless otherwise specifically excluded, federal mandates will apply to all plans. For Medicare and Medicaid members, this policy will apply unless Medicare and Medicaid policies extend coverage beyond this policy.