

Reconstructive Surgery

Definition

Reconstructive Surgery means surgery performed on abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors or disease to do either of the following:

1. To improve function.
2. To create a normal appearance, to the extent possible.

Benefit Coverage (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 10, § 26699.6700, subd. (a)(20))

Reconstructive surgery as defined above is a covered benefit. Members under age 21 requiring reconstructive surgery should be referred to California Children's Services (CCS).

Benefit Exclusion

Reconstructive surgery for cosmetic purposes only (e.g., breast augmentation, rhinoplasty) is not covered.

Examples of Covered Benefits

1. External mammary prostheses made of silicone or other similar materials after a medically necessary mastectomy. "Mastectomy" means the surgical procedures for the removal of all or part of the breast for medically necessary reasons.
2. If a medically necessary mastectomy is performed to only one breast, reconstructive surgery or prosthesis to achieve reasonable symmetry is covered.
3. Surgery to correct an anatomical function impairment after a traumatic injury (e.g., reimplantation of a severed finger).
4. Reconstructive surgery after trauma to improve function or create a normal appearance to the extent possible for Members with congenital defects.

Examples of Non-Covered Benefits

1. Breast augmentation.
2. Liposuction.
3. Rhinoplasty.