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DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY	Section: 607
MEDICAID SERVICES MANUAL	Subject: POLICY

607            **TRANSGENDER SERVICES**

Transgender Services include treatment for gender dysphoria (GD), formerly known as gender identity disorder (GID). Treatment of gender dysphoria is a DHCFP covered benefit, including both hormonal and surgical modalities, and psychotherapy, based on medical necessity. Genital reconstruction surgery (GRS) describes a number of surgical procedure options for the treatment of gender dysphoria.

According to the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), the organization that promotes the standards of health care for transsexual, transgender, and gender nonconforming individuals, through the articulation of Standards of Care (SOC), gender dysphoria is defined as discomfort or distress caused by a discrepancy between a person’s gender identity and that person’s sex assigned at birth (and the associated gender role and/or primary and secondary sex characteristics).

607.1            **COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS**

A.     **Hormone Therapy**

1.     Hormone therapy is covered for treatment of gender dysphoria based on medical necessity.
  - a.     Estrogen and testosterone drugs are covered with no prior authorization, based on medical necessity for treatment of gender dysphoria.
  - b.     Treatment with gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) analogs for delaying the onset of puberty and/or continued pubertal development should be initiated at the first physical changes of puberty, confirmed by pubertal levels of estradiol or testosterone, and no earlier than Tanner Stages 2-3. Prior to initiation of puberty suppression therapy, adolescents must fulfill eligibility and readiness criteria and must have a comprehensive mental health evaluation. Ongoing psychological care is required for continued puberty suppression therapy.
  - c.     Hormone therapy is covered for treatment of adolescents and adults diagnosed with gender dysphoria and meet appropriate eligibility and readiness criteria. To qualify for hormone therapy, the recipient must have:
    1.     persistent and well-documented case of gender dysphoria; and

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2. capacity to make a fully informed decision and give consent for treatment; and
  3. significant medical or mental health concerns reasonably well controlled; and
  4. comprehensive mental health evaluation provided in accordance with Version 7 of the WPATH SOC.
- d. The aforementioned conditions in 1-4 above must be well documented in the recipient's medical record by a medical provider working within the scope of their license.

**B. Genital Reconstruction Surgery**

1. Genital reconstruction surgery is covered for recipients that are sufficiently physically fit and meet eligibility criteria under Nevada and federal laws.
2. Prior authorization is required for all genital reconstruction surgery procedures.
3. To qualify for surgery, the recipient must be 18 years of age or older.
4. The recipient must obtain authentic letters from two qualified licensed health care professionals who have independently assessed the recipient and are referring the recipient for surgery. The two letters must be authenticated and signed by:
  - a. A licensed psychiatrist or psychologist that the recipient has an established and ongoing relationship; and
  - b. A licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or physician, working within the scope of their license that has only had an evaluation role with the recipient.
  - c. Together, the letters must establish the recipient has:
    1. a persistent and well-documented case of gender dysphoria;

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2. received hormone therapy appropriate to the recipient's gender goals, which shall be for a minimum of 12 months in the case of a recipient seeking genital surgery, unless such therapy is medically contraindicated or the recipient is otherwise unable to take hormones;
  3. lived for 12 months in a gender role congruent with the recipient's gender identity, and has received mental health counseling, as deemed medically necessary during that time;
  4. significant medical or mental health concerns reasonably well-controlled; and
  5. capacity to make a fully informed decision and consent to the treatment.
5. Augmentation mammoplasty for male-to-female (MTF) recipients is a covered benefit only when 12 continuous months of hormonal (estrogen) therapy has failed to result in breast tissue growth of Tanner Stage 5 on the puberty scale, as determined by the provider, or the recipient has a medical contraindication to hormone therapy.
  6. Electrolysis is only included for surgical site electrolysis as part of pre-surgical preparation for chest or genital surgical procedures. Electrolysis is not covered for facial or other cosmetic procedures or as pre-surgical preparation for a surgical procedure not covered.
  7. All legal and program requirements related to providing and claiming reimbursement for sterilization procedures must be followed when transgender care involves sterilization. Please reference MSM Chapter 600, Section 603.4B for information concerning sterilization services.

**C. Mental Health Therapy**

1. Mental health therapy is covered for treatment of gender dysphoria.
  - a. Please reference MSM Chapter 400, Mental Health and Alcohol/Substance Abuse Services, for coverage of mental health services and prior authorization requirements.

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**D. Non-Covered Services**

1. Payment will not be made for the following services and procedures:

- a. cryopreservation, storage, and thawing of reproductive tissue, and all related services and costs;
- b. reversal of genital and/or breast surgery;
- c. reversal of surgery to revise secondary sex characteristics;
- d. reversal of any procedure resulting in sterilization;
- e. cosmetic surgery, and procedures including:
  1. neck tightening or removal of redundant skin;
  2. breast, brow, face, or forehead lifts;
  3. chondrolaryngoplasty (commonly known as tracheal shave);
  4. electrolysis, unless required for vaginoplasty;
  5. facial bone reconstruction, reduction, or sculpturing, including jaw shortening and rhinoplasty;
  6. calf, cheek, chin, nose, or pectoral implants
  7. collagen injections;
  8. drugs to promote hair growth or loss;
  9. hair transplantation;
  10. lip reduction or enhancement;
  11. liposuction
  12. thyroid chondroplasty; and

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13. voice therapy, voice lessons, or voice modification surgery.

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**608 HEARINGS**

Please reference Nevada Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) - 3100 for hearings procedures.

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