Medical Policy
Surgical Treatment of Gynecomastia

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Policy Number: 661
BCBSA Reference Number: none
NCD/LCD: Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery (L34698)

Related Policies
Plastic Surgery, #068

Policy
Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity

Adolescent Patients
Unilateral or bilateral surgical treatment of gynecomastia may be MEDICALLY NECESSARY for mid to late pubertal adolescents when ALL of the following criteria are met:
• Grade II or higher gynecomastia by physical examination (per modified McKinney and Simon, Hoffman and Kohn scales*), AND
• Patient is experiencing breast pain or tenderness, AND
• Excess breast tissue is glandular, not fatty tissue as confirmed by physical exam, mammogram or tissue pathology, AND
• Gynecomastia persists more than 1 year after pathological conditions have been ruled out, or persists after 6 months of unsuccessful medical treatment of pathologic gynecomastia, AND
• Medical record clearly excludes substance abuse, supplements, herbal products, and recreational hormones (including steroids) from contributing to the gynecomastia.

Note: Adolescent gynecomastia is common during puberty, and most cases resolve within 1 year.

Adult Patients
Unilateral or bilateral surgical treatment of gynecomastia may be MEDICALLY NECESSARY for patients with Klinefelter’s syndrome and grade III or higher gynecomastia by physical examination (per modified McKinney and Simon, Hoffman and Kohn scales*).

Unilateral or bilateral surgical treatment of gynecomastia may be MEDICALLY NECESSARY for patients without Klinefelter’s syndrome when ALL of the following criteria are met:
- Grade III or higher gynecomastia by physical examination (per modified McKinney and Simon, Hoffman and Kohn scales*), AND
- Patient is experiencing breast pain or tenderness, AND
- Excess breast tissue is glandular, not fatty tissue as confirmed by physical exam, mammogram or tissue pathology, AND
- Gynecomastia persists more than 6 months after pathological conditions have been ruled out, or persists after 6 months of unsuccessful medical treatment of pathologic gynecomastia, AND
- Medical record clearly excludes substance abuse, supplements, herbal products, and recreational hormones (including steroids) from contributing to the gynecomastia.

*Gynecomastia Scale adapted from the McKinney and Simon, Hoffman and Kohn scales*
- Grade I Small breast enlargement with localized button of tissue that is concentrated around the areola.
- Grade II Moderate breast enlargement exceeding areola boundaries with edges that are indistinct from the chest.
- Grade III Moderate breast enlargement exceeding areola boundaries with edges that are distinct from the chest with skin redundancy present.
- Grade IV Marked breast enlargement with skin redundancy and feminization of the breast.

**Medicare HMO BlueSM and Medicare PPO BlueSM Members**

Medical necessity criteria and coding guidance for Medicare Advantage members living in Massachusetts can be found through the link below.

**Coverage Indications**
Mastectomy for gynecomastia (19300)

Gynecomastia is the excessive growth of the male mammary glands. These conditions can cause significant clinical manifestations when the excessive breast weight adversely affects the supporting structures of the shoulders, neck, and trunk. Payment may be made for this procedure if it is documented that the tissue is primarily breast tissue and not just adipose (fatty tissue).

**Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery (L34698)**

For medical necessity criteria and coding guidance for Medicare Advantage members living outside of Massachusetts, please see the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website for information regarding your specific jurisdiction at https://www.cms.gov.

**Prior Authorization Information**
Pre-service approval is required for all inpatient services for all products. See below for situations where prior authorization may be required or may not be required for outpatient services.
- Yes indicates that prior authorization is required.
- No indicates that prior authorization is not required.
- N/A indicates that this service is primarily performed in an inpatient setting.

| Outpatient | Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS) | Yes | Commercial PPO and Indemnity | No | Medicare HMO BlueSM | Yes | Medicare PPO BlueSM | No |
CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD Codes

Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member’s contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.

Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.

CPT Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT codes:</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19300</td>
<td>Mastectomy for gynecomastia</td>
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ICD-9 Diagnosis Codes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes:</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>611.1</td>
<td>Hypertrophy of breast</td>
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<tr>
<td>758.7</td>
<td>Klinefelter’s syndrome</td>
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ICD-9 Procedure Codes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-9-CM procedure codes:</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85.31</td>
<td>Unilateral reduction mammoplasty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.32</td>
<td>Bilateral reduction mammoplasty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.34</td>
<td>Other unilateral subcutaneous mammectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.36</td>
<td>Other bilateral subcutaneous mammectomy</td>
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ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

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<tr>
<th>ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes:</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N62</td>
<td>Hypertrophy of breast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q98.4</td>
<td>Klinefelter syndrome, unspecified</td>
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ICD-10 Procedure Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10 PCS procedure codes:</th>
<th>Code Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0HBT0ZZ</td>
<td>Excision of Right Breast, Open Approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>0HBT3ZZ</td>
<td>Excision of Right Breast, Percutaneous Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0HBU0ZZ</td>
<td>Excision of Left Breast, Open Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0HBU3ZZ</td>
<td>Excision of Left Breast, Percutaneous Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0HBV0ZZ</td>
<td>Excision of Bilateral Breast, Open Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0HBV3ZZ</td>
<td>Excision of Bilateral Breast, Percutaneous Approach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Description

Bilateral gynecomastia refers to the benign enlargement of the male breast, either due to increased adipose tissue, glandular tissue, fibrous tissue, or a combination of all three. Surgical removal of the breast tissue, using either surgical excision or liposuction may be considered if conservative therapies are not effective or possible.
Bilateral gynecomastia refers to the benign enlargement of the male breast, either due to increased adipose tissue, glandular tissue, fibrous tissue, or a combination of all three. Bilateral gynecomastia may be associated with any of the following:

- An underlying hormonal disorder (i.e., conditions causing either estrogen excess or testosterone deficiency such as liver disease or an endocrine disorder)
- A side effect of certain drugs
- Obesity
- Related to specific age groups, i.e.
  - Neonatal gynecomastia, related to action of maternal or placental estrogens
  - Adolescent gynecomastia, which consists of transient, bilateral breast enlargement, which may be tender
  - Gynecomastia of aging, related to the decreasing levels of testosterone and relative estrogen excess

Treatment of gynecomastia involves consideration of the underlying cause. For example, treatment of the underlying hormonal disorder, cessation of drug therapy or weight loss may all be effective therapies. Gynecomastia may also resolve spontaneously and adolescent gynecomastia may resolve with aging.

Prolonged gynecomastia causes periductal fibrosis and stromal hyalinization, which prevents regression of the breast tissue. Surgical removal of the breast tissue, using either surgical excision or liposuction may be considered if the above conservative therapies are not effective or possible and the gynecomastia does not resolve spontaneously or with aging.

**Summary**

Bilateral gynecomastia refers to the benign enlargement of the male breast, either due to increased adipose tissue, glandular tissue, fibrous tissue, or a combination of all three. Surgical removal of the breast tissue, using either surgical excision or liposuction may be considered if conservative therapies are not effective or possible.

**Policy History**

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**Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies**

Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:

- Medical Policy Terms of Use
- Managed Care Guidelines
- Indemnity/PPO Guidelines
- Clinical Exception Process
- Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines

**References**

2. McKesson’s InterQual® medical necessity criteria for male reduction mammoplasty.
