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Effective Date	09/01/2024
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Next Review Date	7/15/2026
Origination Date	06/01/2024
Originated Department	Medical Management

External Breast Prosthetics

Audience
Medical Management, Claims

Purpose
<p>Medical policies provide general support for applying Mountain Health Co-Op member policy document coverage decisions, and the member-specific benefit plan document must be referenced. The terms of the member-specific Policy document may differ from the standard benefit plan based on this medical policy. If there is a conflict between a member-specific policy document and the Mountain Health Co-Op medical policy, the document supersedes this policy. Any person(s) applying this medical policy must identify member eligibility, the member-specific policy document, and related policies or guidelines before applying this medical policy, including the existence of any state or federal guidance. Mountain Health Co-Op medical policies are designed for informational purposes only and are not an authorization, explanation of benefits, or contract. Receipt of benefits is subject to the satisfaction of all terms and conditions of the member-specific policy document coverage. Mountain Health Co-Op reserves the sole discretionary right to modify all policies and guidelines at any time.</p>

Definition
<p>There are various types of external breast prostheses. These devices are used post-mastectomy or in situations of gender dysphoria where the individual has not had an internal prosthesis or reconstructive surgery performed. Manufacturers make a wide selection of types, shapes, sizes, and colors. The type of prosthesis required is determined by the amount of breast tissue removed. A prosthesis can be worn against the skin, inside the pocket of a mastectomy bra, or attached to the chest wall. Prosthetic devices are designed to look feminine while ensuring comfort.</p> <p>There are different types of external prosthetics. They include:</p>

- External silicone breast prosthesis—a weighted prosthesis made of silicone designed to simulate natural breast tissue. Because this type of breast prosthesis is weighted, it may help posture, prevent shoulder drop, and solve balance problems.
- Non-silicone breast prosthesis—This is a lightweight breast form made of foam or fiberfill that may be worn following a mastectomy. It may also be worn during exercise, swimming, and hot weather.
- Attachable breast prosthesis: This self-adhesive breast form attaches securely to the chest wall with adhesive strips.
- Post-surgical soft form in camisole—This is a lightweight, removable breast form that fits into a camisole garment (a soft, stretchy garment with lace elastic straps that can be pulled up over the hips if raising the arms is difficult). A post-surgical camisole is often worn immediately following a mastectomy, lumpectomy, radiation therapy, or reconstruction breast surgery.

Partial breast prosthesis, also called a shaper or shell, are also sometimes used in patients with significant defects due to lumpectomies or partial breast resection. These are made of foam, fiberfill, or silicone. This type of breast prosthesis is designed to be worn over your own breast tissue to enhance the breast's overall size and create a fuller appearance. A partial breast prosthesis can be worn with a regular bra or a post-mastectomy bra.

Post-mastectomy (or simply mastectomy) bras resemble regular bras. Still, they have one crucial difference—they have spandex stretch pockets on the inside, which help hold and keep the breast prosthesis in place. Mastectomy bras can be purchased at specialty shops or mastectomy boutiques. A certified mastectomy fitter who is trained and experienced assists in selecting and fitting the appropriate prosthesis and mastectomy bra that meets the individual's needs.

Policy/Procedure

Mountain Health Co-Op Health Plans covers external breast prostheses without the requirement for prior authorization.

External breast prostheses are covered based on established quantity limits and frequency edits.

Covered External Breast Prostheses

CODE	Description	Benefit Maximum
L8000	Bra Only	2 every 6 months
L8001	Bra with unilateral insert	1 per calendar year
L8002	Bra with bilateral insert	2 every 6 months
L8010	Sleeve for post-mastectomy lymphedema	2 per calendar year
L8015	Camisole Type Garment with Mastectomy form	2 every 6 months
L8020	Breast Prosthesis: supplier designs	1 per breast (LT/RT) per calendar year

L8030	Nonadhesive silicone or equivalent breast prosthesis	1 per breast (LT/RT), every 3 years
L8031	Adhesive silicone or equivalent breast prosthesis	1 per breast (LT/RT), every 3 years
L8039	Breast prosthesis, NOS	Unlisted code, requires prior authorization

Mountain Health Co-Op Health Plans does **NOT COVER** nipple prosthetic (**L8032/L8033**) as it is not considered medically necessary nor required to be covered by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA).

Mountain Health Co-Op Health Plans does **NOT COVER** custom fabricated prosthesis (**L8035**) as compared to a prefabricated silicone breast prosthesis has not been established, and therefore, if an L8035 breast prosthesis is billed, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Clinical Rationale

Women undergoing mastectomy for any reason experience significant emotional trauma, potentially impacting their self-esteem, emotional state, and quality of life. This has been identified in studies by Mock et al. in 1993 and Reaby et al. in several studies performed in the 1990s. The use of external prostheses has also been demonstrated to not negatively impact posture or spinal alignment in studies by Hojan et al. in 2016 and Manikowska et al. in 2019.

Consequently, the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) of 1998 was passed to address inequities in mastectomy coverage and subsequent reconstructive and other services related to covered mastectomies. It requires health plans to provide coverage of certain services or products related to or a consequence of the surgery in instances in which a mastectomy is covered as medically necessary. This often includes a post-mastectomy breast prosthesis or mastectomy form (for one or both breasts), breast prosthesis garments, and/or mastectomy bras.

Applicable Coding

CPT Codes

No Applicable codes

HCPCS Codes

- L8000** Breast prosthesis, mastectomy bra, without integrated breast prosthesis form, any size, any type
- L8001** Breast prosthesis, mastectomy bra, with integrated breast prosthesis form, unilateral, any size, any type
- L8002** Breast prosthesis, mastectomy bra, with integrated breast prosthesis form, bilateral, any size, any type

L8010	Breast prosthesis, mastectomy sleeve
L8015	External breast prosthesis garment, with mastectomy form, post-mastectomy
L8020	Breast prosthesis, mastectomy form
L8030	Breast prosthesis, silicone or equal, without integral adhesive
L8031	Breast prosthesis, silicone or equal, with integral adhesive
L8032	Nipple prosthesis, prefabricated, reusable, any type, each
L8033	Nipple prosthesis, custom fabricated, reusable, any material, any type, each
L8035	Custom breast prosthesis, post-mastectomy, molded to patient model
L8039	Nipple prosthesis, custom fabricated, reusable, any material, any type, each

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2.	Handel N. Current status of breast reconstruction after mastectomy. <i>Oncology (Huntingt).</i> 1991;5(11):73-84, 89, 90, 92.
3.	Hojan K, Manikowska F, Chen BP, Lin CC. The influence of an external breast prosthesis on the posture of women after mastectomy. <i>J Back Musculoskelet Rehabil.</i> 2016;29(2):337-342.
4.	Manikowska F, Ozga-Majchrzak O, Hojan K. The weight of an external breast prosthesis as a factor for body balance in women who have undergone mastectomy. <i>Homo.</i> 2019 Nov 29;70(4):269-276. doi: 10.1127/homo/2019/1114. PMID: 31701997.
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9.	Reaby LL, Hort LK, Vandervord J. Body image, self-concept, and self-esteem in women who had a mastectomy and either wore an external breast prosthesis or had breast
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Vendors	
•	Health Plan Services (HPS)

Review/Revision/Approval History	
Date	Description
06/01/2024	New Policy

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