



# Ensuring Access to Transgender Services

December 21, 2020

The Alliance is committed to ensuring that all Alliance members receive access to medically necessary care and would like to remind providers of considerations to medical necessity for transgender members. Gender dysphoria is treated as a developmental abnormality for the purposes of reconstructive services, and “normal” appearance is to be determined by referencing the gender with which the member identifies. When considering whether a reconstructive service is medically necessary or cosmetic, please consider that a “normal” appearance is to be determined by referencing the gender with which the member identifies. Reconstructive surgery for members with gender dysphoria is not considered cosmetic.

This extends beyond surgery and reconstructive care. Nationally-recognized medical experts in the field of transgender health care have identified the following core services in treating gender dysphoria: mental health services; psychotherapy; hormone therapy; and a variety of surgical procedures and treatments that bring primary and secondary gender characteristics into conformity with the individual's identified gender. Surgical procedures and treatments that bring secondary gender characteristics into conformity with an individual's identified gender may include, but are not limited to, sex reassignment surgery, facial gender confirmation surgery, body contouring, hair removal, and voice therapy and vocal surgery, if these services are determined to be medically necessary to treat a member's gender dysphoria, or if the services meet the statutory definition of reconstructive surgery.

The Alliance does not categorically limit a service or the frequency of services available to a transgender member as it applies to the above (surgery and otherwise). For example, certain services, such as facial feminization surgery, are not considered cosmetic, but medically necessary.

Thank you for your commitment to providing appropriate care to our membership. Please contact your Provider Relations Representative with any questions.

**HEALTHY PEOPLE. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.**

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