



External Breast Prostheses and Related Supplies Clinical Coverage Criteria

Overview

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA) is a federal law that provides protections to patients who choose to have breast reconstruction in connection with a mastectomy. The WHCRA, enacted October 21, 1998, amended the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The WHCRA is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor. The WHCRA applies to group health plans and individual insurance policies. Group health plans can either be insured or self-funded. The WHCRA does not apply to Medicare or Medicaid.

As required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) of 1998, Fallon Health provides coverage for the following services in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the plan member:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Prostheses; and
- Treatment of physical complications of mastectomy, including lymphedema.

Coverage cannot be denied based upon the period of time between the mastectomy and the request for reconstructive surgery; because the member had the mastectomy prior to joining a plan; or because the mastectomy was not as a result of cancer. Also, despite the title, nothing in the law limits WHCRA entitlements to women.

The WHCRA does not prohibit health plans from imposing copayments, deductibles, or coinsurance requirements on health benefits in connection with a mastectomy and reconstruction as long as such requirements are consistent with those established for other benefits under the plan. Please consult the individual plan benefits for specific information.

This policy addresses coverage for external breast prostheses and related supplies. For post-mastectomy breast reconstruction refer to the Cosmetic, Reconstructive and Restorative Services policy.

Policy

This Policy applies to the following Fallon Health products:

- Fallon Medicare Plus
- MassHealth ACO
- NaviCare HMO SNP (Dual Eligible Medicare Advantage and MassHealth)
- PACE (Summit Eldercare PACE, Fallon Health Weinberg PACE)
- Community Care (Commercial/Exchange)

Except for custom fabricated breast prostheses (L8035), which are covered for MassHealth ACO and NaviCare members only, external breast prostheses and related supplies do not require prior authorization. Quantity limits apply and are described below.

Fallon Health Clinical Coverage Criteria

Fallon Health Clinical Coverage Criteria apply to Community Care members.

External breast prostheses and related supplies are covered for Community Care members in accordance with the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA). Quantity limits apply.

Breast prostheses and related supplies for Community Care members

- One prefabricated external breast prosthesis is covered for the useful lifetime of the prosthesis (two breast prostheses, one per side, are covered for women members who have had bilateral mastectomies).
- The useful lifetime expectancy for a silicone breast prosthesis (HCPCS code L8030) is two years. For fabric, foam, or fiber filled breast prostheses (HCPCS code L8001, L8002, L8020), the useful lifetime expectancy is 6 months. Replacement sooner than the useful lifetime is not covered, except when the prosthesis is lost or irreparably damaged (this does not include ordinary wear and tear), or the plan member's condition changes such that the current equipment no longer meets the plan member's needs.
- A breast prosthesis may be attached to the chest wall with an adhesive skin support (HCPCS code A4280) or worn in a mastectomy bra (HCPCS code L8000), which is specially designed with a pocket to hold the prosthesis in place.
- A mastectomy bra (L8000) is covered for a plan member who has an external breast prosthesis (L8020, L8030) when the pocket of the bra is used to hold the prosthesis. Fallon Health covers two mastectomy bras (HCPCS code L8000, L8001, L8002) per calendar year.
- A post-mastectomy camisole-type undergarment (HCPCS code L8015) is covered for use during the post-operative period, or as an alternative to a breast prosthesis and mastectomy bra. The garment includes breast forms. Fallon Health covers two post-mastectomy camisole-type (HCPCS code L8015) garments per calendar year.
- The additional features of a custom fabricated prosthesis (L8035) compared to a prefabricated silicone breast prosthesis has not been established, and therefore, if an L8035 breast prosthesis is requested, it will be denied as not covered.

Medicare Variation

Medicare statutes and regulations do not have coverage criteria for external breast prostheses and related supplies. Medicare does not have an NCD for external breast prostheses and related supplies. Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC, the Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractor (DME MAC) with jurisdiction in the Plan's service area has an LCD for Glucose Monitors (L33822) and an LCD for External Breast Prostheses (L33317) (Medicare Coverage Database Search 11/23/2025). Coverage criteria for External Breast Prostheses (L33317) are fully established by Medicare; therefore, the Plan's coverage criteria are not applicable.

At the time of a mastectomy and after, Medicare covers reasonable and necessary external breast prostheses and supplies. Quantity limits apply.

[Link: Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC, LCD for External Breast Prostheses \(L33317\)](#), Revision Effective Date: For services performed on or after 04/01/2025

Breast prostheses and related supplies for Medicare members

(Source: Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC, LCD for External Breast Prostheses (L33317), Revision Effective Date: For services performed on or after 04/01/2025)

- One external breast prosthesis (L8020, L8030) is covered for a plan member who has had a mastectomy. Two external breast prostheses (one per side) are covered for a plan members who have had bilateral mastectomies. Refer to the ICD-10 code list in the related Policy Article (A52478) for applicable diagnoses.
 - The useful lifetime of a foam breast prosthesis (L8001, L8002, L8020) is six months.
 - The useful lifetime of a silicone breast prosthesis (L8030) is 2 years.
 - An external breast prosthesis of the same type can be replaced at any time if it is lost or irreparably damaged (this does not include ordinary wear and tear), or if the plan member's condition changes such that the current equipment no longer meets the plan member's needs.

- Codes L8001 and L8002 describe a mastectomy bra with integrated breast prosthesis, either unilateral or bilateral, respectively. Products described by codes L8001 and L8002 are covered as an alternative to an external breast prosthesis (L8020, L8030) and mastectomy bra (L8000).
- A mastectomy bra (L8000) is covered for a plan member who has a covered breast prosthesis (L8020, L8030) when the pocket of the bra is used to hold the prosthesis. LCD External Breast Prostheses L33317, does not specify quantities of bras or camisoles (L8000, L8001, L8002, L8015) that are covered. A physician determines what is reasonable and necessary on a case-by-case basis. Medical records should reflect and support what is ordered and dispensed to a plan member. Regardless of utilization, a supplier may not dispense more than a three (3) month quantity at one time.
- Code A4280 should be used when billing for an adhesive skin support that attaches an external breast prosthesis directly to the chest wall (obviating the need for a mastectomy bra).
- A camisole-type garment with mastectomy form (L8015) is covered for use in the postoperative period prior to a permanent breast prosthesis or as an alternative to a breast prosthesis and mastectomy bra.
- Breast prostheses silicone or equal, with integral adhesive (L8031) have not been demonstrated to have a clinical advantage over those without the integral adhesive. Therefore, if L8031 is billed, it will be denied as not covered.
- The medical necessity for the additional features of a custom fabricated prosthesis (L8035) 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 covered.

MassHealth Variation

Fallon Health follows the MassHealth Prosthetics Manual and the MassHealth Orthotics and Prosthetics Payment and Coverage Guideline Tool when making medical necessity determinations for external breast prostheses and related supplies for MassHealth ACO members.

Only those prosthetics listed in Subchapter 6 of the Prosthetics Manual are covered, subject to requirements and limitations found in the MassHealth Orthotics and Prosthetics Payment and Coverage Guideline Tool. Breast prostheses and related supplies must be medically necessary in accordance with 130 CMR 450.204 and reasonable for the treatment of the member's condition.

Breast prostheses and related supplies for MassHealth members

(Source: MassHealth Prosthetics Manual and the MassHealth Orthotics and Prosthetics Payment and Coverage Guideline Tool)

- One external breast prosthesis (L8020, L8030) is covered for a plan member who has had a mastectomy. Two external breast prostheses (one per side) are covered for plan members who have had bilateral mastectomies.
 - The useful lifetime of a foam breast prosthesis (L8001, L8002, L8020) is seven months.
 - The useful lifetime of a silicone breast prosthesis (L8030) is seven months.
 - An external breast prosthesis of the same type can be replaced at any time if it is lost or irreparably damaged (this does not include ordinary wear and tear), or if the plan member's condition changes such that the current equipment no longer meets the plan member's needs.
- Codes L8001 and L8002 describe a mastectomy bra with integrated breast prosthesis, either unilateral or bilateral, respectively. Products described by codes L8001 and L8002 are covered as an alternative to an external breast prosthesis (L8020, L8030) and mastectomy bra (L8000). Two mastectomy bras with integrated breast prosthesis are covered per seven months.
- A mastectomy bra (L8000) is covered for a plan member who has a covered breast prosthesis (L8020, L8030) when the pocket of the bra is used to hold the prosthesis. Two mastectomy bras (L8000) are covered per seven months.

- Code A4280 should be used when billing for an adhesive skin support that attaches an external breast prosthesis directly to the chest wall (obviating the need for a mastectomy bra).
- A camisole-type garment with mastectomy form (L8015) is covered for use in the postoperative period prior to a permanent breast prosthesis or as an alternative to a breast prosthesis and mastectomy bra. Two camisole-type garments are covered per seven months.
- A breast prosthesis with integral adhesive (L8031) is covered as an alternative to an external breast prosthesis (L8020, L8030); mastectomy bra with integrated breast prosthesis (L8001, L8002) and camisole-type garment with mastectomy form (L8015). The useful lifetime of a breast prosthesis with integral adhesive is one year.
- One prefabricated nipple prosthesis (L8032) is covered per year (two for a plan member with bilateral mastectomies).
- A custom fabricated breast prosthesis (L8035) is covered as an alternative to a prefabricated external breast prosthesis (L8020, L8030); mastectomy bra with integrated breast prosthesis (L8001, L8002) and camisole-type garment with mastectomy form (L8015). Prior authorization is required for custom fabricated breast prosthesis (L8035). The following documentation must be submitted by the provider:
 - A copy of the written prescription signed by a licensed physician or independent nurse practitioner. The written prescription must include medical justification for the custom fabricated breast prosthesis (per 428.409: Prescription Requirements).
 - A copy of the evaluation performed by a licensed prosthetist or certified mastectomy fitter which concludes that a custom fabricated breast prostheses is useful to the member given the member's physical condition (per 428.412: Prior Authorization and 428.413: Procedure for Requesting Prior Authorization).

One custom breast prosthesis is covered per year (two for a plan member with bilateral mastectomies).

- A custom fabricated breast prosthesis (L8035) is covered as an alternative to a prefabricated external breast prosthesis (L8020, L8030); mastectomy bra with integrated breast prosthesis (L8001, L8002) and camisole-type garment with mastectomy form (L8015). Prior authorization is required for custom fabricated breast prosthesis (L8035). The following documentation must be submitted by the provider:
 - A copy of the written prescription signed by a licensed physician or independent nurse practitioner. The written prescription must include medical justification for the custom fabricated breast prosthesis (per 428.409: Prescription Requirements).
 - A copy of the evaluation performed by a licensed prosthetist or certified mastectomy fitter which concludes that a custom fabricated breast prostheses is useful to the member given the member's physical condition (per 428.412: Prior Authorization and 428.413: Procedure for Requesting Prior Authorization).

Breast prostheses and related supplies are not covered when:

- (1) they cannot reasonably be expected to make a meaningful contribution to the treatment of the member's condition or the performance of the member's activities of daily living; or
- (2) they are more costly than a medically comparable and suitable alternative or that serves essentially the same purpose as equipment already available to the member.

Exclusions

- The additional features of a custom fabricated breast prosthesis (L8035) are not medically necessary. A custom fabricated breast prosthesis is covered for MassHealth ACO and NaviCare plan members in accordance with Subchapter 6 of the MassHealth Prosthetics Manual (prior authorization is required).
- The additional features of a custom fabricated nipple prosthesis (L8033) are not medically necessary.
- The additional features of a breast prostheses with integral adhesive (L8031) are not medically necessary. Breast prostheses with integral adhesive have not been demonstrated to have a clinical advantage over those without the integral adhesive. A breast prosthesis

with integral adhesive is covered for MassHealth and NaviCare members in accordance with Subchapter 6 of the MassHealth Prosthetics Manual (prior authorization is required).

Coding

The following codes are included below for informational purposes only; inclusion of a code does not constitute or imply coverage or reimbursement.

Code	Description
A4280	Adhesive skin support attachment for use with external breast prosthesis, each
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
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
L8039	Breast prosthesis, not otherwise specified

References

1. United States Code, Title 29, Chapter 18, Subchapter 1, Subtitle B, Part 7, Subpart B, § 1185b. Required coverage for reconstructive surgery following mastectomies.
2. Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Breast Reconstruction Following Mastectomy (140.2). Effective Date 01/01/1997.
3. Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC. LCD for External Breast Prostheses (L33317). Original Effective Date 10/01/2015. Revision Effective Date 04/01/2025. Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=33317&ver=31&=>.
4. Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC. Local Coverage Article (LCA) External Breast Prostheses - Policy Article (A52478). Original Effective Date 10/01/2025. Revision Effective Date 01/01/2020. Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleId=52478&ver=22>.
5. National Government Services, Inc. Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Reduction Mammoplasty (L35001) Original Effective Date For services performed on or after 10/1/2015. Revision Effective Date For services performed on or after 02/01/2024. Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=35001>.
6. National Government Services, Inc. Local Coverage Article (LCA): Billing and Coding: Reduction Mammoplasty (A56837). Original Effective Date 11/7/2019. Revision Effective Date 01/01/2021. Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleId=56837&ver=14>.
7. MassHealth Guidelines for Medical Necessity Determination for Breast Reconstruction and Breast Implant Removal. Revised policy effective: June 13, 2024. Supersedes policy dated November 8, 2022. Available at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/masshealth-guidelines-for-medical-necessity-determination-for-breast-reconstruction>.
8. MassHealth Prosthetics Manual. Program Regulations 130 CMR 428.00. Effective 04/28/23. Available at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/prosthetics-manual-for-masshealth-providers#subchapter-4:-prosthetics-providers-regulations->.

Policy history

Origination date: 01/1993
Approval(s): Utilization Management Committee: 05/2000, 06/2003
Technology Assessment Subcommittee: 07/05/2005
Benefits Committee: 01/1993, 01/1995, 03/2002
Benefit Oversight Committee: 01/14/2009, 08/11/2010
Technology Assessment Committee: 01/2002, 10/04/2005, 09/24/2014 (updated template and exclusions) 09/23/2015 (removed autologous fat graft exclusion) 09/15/2016 (updated references), 09/27/2017 (updated references, clarified a cancer diagnosis is required for coverage), 08/22/2018 (annual review, no updates), 09/10/2019 (updated references), 12/7/2021 (updated to include details on coverage for external breast prostheses and related supplies; 07/10/2021: added clarifying language related to Medicare Advantage, NaviCare and PACE under policy section), 02/28/2023 (updated MassHealth Clinical Coverage Criteria per Guideline revision, documented noncoverage of S2066, S2067, S2068 effective 6/1/2023, updated code descriptions in coding section, updated references), 07/23/2024 (annual review; removed MassHealth Clinical Coverage Criteria, for coverage criteria, use primary source document on MassHealth website), 11/25/2025 (annual review, post-mastectomy breast reconstruction moved to Cosmetic, Reconstructive and Restorative Services policy, no changes to coverage criteria, removed discontinued HCPCS code L8010, based on CMS HCPCS coding determination).
Utilization Management Committee: 12/16/2025 (annual review, approved with no changes to coverage criteria).

Instructions for Use

Fallon Health complies with CMS's national coverage determinations (NCDs), local coverage determinations (LCDs) of Medicare Contractors with jurisdiction for claims in the Plan's service area, and applicable Medicare statutes and regulations when making medical necessity determinations for Medicare Advantage members. When coverage criteria are not fully established in applicable Medicare statutes, regulations, NCDs or LCDs, Fallon Health may create internal coverage criteria under specific circumstances described at § 422.101(b)(6)(i) and (ii).

Fallon Health generally follows Medical Necessity Guidelines published by MassHealth when making medical necessity determinations for MassHealth members. In the absence of Medical Necessity Guidelines published by MassHealth, Fallon Health may create clinical coverage criteria in accordance with the definition of Medical Necessity in 130 CMR 450.204.

For plan members enrolled in NaviCare, Fallon Health first follows CMS's national coverage determinations (NCDs), local coverage determinations (LCDs) of Medicare Contractors with jurisdiction for claims in the Plan's service area, and applicable Medicare statutes and regulations when making medical necessity determinations. When coverage criteria are not fully established in applicable Medicare statutes, regulations, NCDs or LCDs, or if the NaviCare member does not meet coverage criteria in applicable Medicare statutes, regulations, NCDs or LCDs, Fallon Health then follows Medical Necessity Guidelines published by MassHealth when making necessity determinations for NaviCare members.

Each PACE plan member is assigned to an Interdisciplinary Team. PACE provides participants with all the care and services covered by Medicare and Medicaid, as authorized by the interdisciplinary team, as well as additional medically necessary care and services not covered by Medicare and Medicaid. With the exception of emergency care and out-of-area urgently needed

care, all care and services provided to PACE plan members must be authorized by the interdisciplinary team.

Not all services mentioned in this policy are covered for all products or employer groups. Coverage is based upon the terms of a member's particular benefit plan which may contain its own specific provisions for coverage and exclusions regardless of medical necessity. Please consult the product's Evidence of Coverage for exclusions or other benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. If there is any discrepancy between this policy and a member's benefit plan, the provisions of the benefit plan will govern. However, applicable state mandates take precedence with respect to fully insured plans and self-funded non-ERISA (e.g., government, school boards, church) plans. Unless otherwise specifically excluded, federal mandates will apply to all plans.