

<b>Number:</b> Med 257	<b>Date:</b> July 5, 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Alberta Health Final Stage Gender Reassignment Surgery (GRS) Program	<b>Reference:</b> MED 166A

**To: All Physicians**

**NOTE: Updated from MED 166A regarding referring physicians.**

The Alberta Health Final Stage Gender Reassignment Surgery (GRS) Program provides funding for eligible Alberta residents diagnosed with gender dysphoria, who meet the established program criteria to receive phalloplasty, metoidioplasty or vaginoplasty at the [Centre Métropolitain de Chirurgie](#) in Montreal.

The GRS Program was established under a Ministerial Order, and is not funded under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP). Specific criteria must be met for a patient to be considered for funding under the GRS Program. Patients must undergo two independent assessments by physicians with extensive training or clinical experience in assessing and managing the mental health needs of the transgender population, and be diagnosed with gender dysphoria.

The program requires two diagnoses of gender dysphoria from Alberta physicians with a practice interest in assessing and managing the needs of the transgender population. Any physician (including psychiatrists) licensed in Alberta can submit the funding application package to Alberta Health. The patient can be referred to other physicians with expertise in transgender care by their family physician, and the family physician may then submit the documents received from other physicians as part of the funding application package.

Attached is a summary of the GRS Program criteria. Copies of the Registration of Intent and Request for Out of Province Funding forms discussed in the summary, are also attached.

Only complete applications will be processed. Alberta Health will return incomplete applications to the applying physician.

Funding application packages for the GRS Program must be sent to Alberta Health's Special Programs Unit by e-mail at [OOCHSC@gov.ab.ca](mailto:OOCHSC@gov.ab.ca) or by mail at the following address:

Alberta Health  
Special Programs Unit  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
PO Box 1360 Stn Main  
Edmonton AB T5J 2N3

The GRS Program does not provide funding for:

- GRS services provided outside of Canada;

- Cosmetic procedures that are not deemed medically necessary, such as facial feminization, tracheal shave and voice pitch surgery;
- Non-medical interventions required prior to final stage GRS, such as electrolysis, laser hair removal or massage therapy; or
- Any other additional costs such as take-home medications, equipment, meals, accommodations and other personal expenses.

For further information, please contact the Special Programs Unit at [OOCHSC@gov.ab.ca](mailto:OOCHSC@gov.ab.ca).

<p><b>Contact:</b> Health Insurance Programs Branch</p> <p><b>Telephone:</b> Edmonton 780-427-1432 Toll-free 310-0000</p>	<p><b>Approved by:</b> Carol Taylor</p> <p><b>Position:</b> A/Executive Director Health Insurance Programs Branch, Pharmaceutical and Supplementary Benefits Division</p>
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