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<b>Subject:</b> Billing Codes requiring Eligibility Prior Approval – Breast Augmentation and Mastectomy for Individuals Diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria	<b>Reference:</b> Bulletin 20, January 26, 1995 Breast Implant Removal & Re-Implantation	

**To: all practitioners**

**Re: Eligibility Prior Approval for Health Service Code 97.43** (Unilateral augmentation mammoplasty by implant or graft prosthesis) **and 97.22A** (subcutaneous mastectomy with retention of areola and nipple).

To facilitate medically necessary breast augmentation and medically necessary mastectomy for Alberta transgender patients, and to enable access to these procedures as for cisgender patients, please follow the billing procedures below:

Claims may be submitted for Alberta transgender individuals under health service code 97.43 and 97.22A when it is validated that the patient meets general eligibility criteria under Alberta’s Final Stage Gender Reassignment Program.

For billing codes 97.43 and 97.22A a new Eligibility Prior Approval form will be posted on the Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services public web site by end of February 2019. The following process should be adhered to until the form is available.

- Prior to surgery, please contact Alberta Health Special Programs Unit at 780-415-8744 for validation of eligibility.
- This bulletin will be updated when the Eligibility Prior Approval Form, is available.
- Following surgery, the gender restrictions normally present for these billing codes can be bypassed by including *text* within the claim submission as follows: 1) insert text noting the diagnosis of transgender and, 2) indicate the date of the Alberta Health eligibility prior approval. Submitting claims with this text will prevent the claim from being rejected by Alberta Health.

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**Approval:** Donna Manuel  
**Position:** Executive Director  
 Pharmaceutical and Supplementary Benefits Division

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Note that existing eligibility criteria of the service code 97.43 and 97.22A for cis-gender women do not change. For example, the eligibility criteria for 97.43 remains as breast aplasia, hypoplasia, marked asymmetry of breast size, or following breast cancer treatment for transgender and cis gender women.

### **Breast revisions**

Medically necessary surgeries for medical complications arising from the augmentation implant are insured (regardless of gender). For example, surgery to remove implants and capsules is insured in event of suspected BIA-ALCL, or if the surgeon diagnoses illness due to implants and recommends the implants be removed. Revision surgery for aesthetic improvements, updates, or for reasons of patient preference/cosmetic reasons is not insured. Thus, there is no change in the eligibility criteria or process for claims for these procedures. Please refer to Bulletin 20 for more information.

If you have questions, please contact the Special Programs unit in the Edmonton area at 780-415-8744, or toll-free for the rest of Alberta at 310-0000 then 780-415-8744 when prompted.

The Physician’s Resource Guide and the Allied Health Practitioner’s Resource Guide will be updated to reinforce these billing transgender codes.