

<b>Department of Origin:</b> Integrated Healthcare Services	<b>Effective Date:</b> 09/10/24
<b>Approved by:</b> Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	<b>Date Approved:</b> 09/10/24
<b>Clinical Policy Document:</b> Scar Revision	<b>Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated:</b> 09/28/23
<b>Reference #:</b> MC/G016	<b>Page:</b> 1 of 5

**PURPOSE:**

The intent of this clinical policy is to ensure services are medically necessary.

Please refer to the member's benefit document for specific information. To the extent there is any inconsistency between this policy and the terms of the member's benefit plan or certificate of coverage, the terms of the member's benefit plan document will govern.

**POLICY:**

Benefits must be available for health care services. Health care services must be ordered by a provider. Health care services must be medically necessary, applicable conservative treatments must have been tried, and the most cost-effective alternative must be requested for coverage consideration.

Health care services that are *cosmetic* are not considered medically necessary and therefore, not eligible for coverage.

Health care services that are *reconstructive* (ie, performed for an injury, sickness, congenital disease or anomaly) causing a *functional defect/physical impairment* or clinically significant distress or impairment are not considered *cosmetic*.

*Reconstructive* surgery is covered according to the member's benefit plan, applicable state statutes, the *Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998*, and the guidelines set forth in this policy.

**GUIDELINES:**

Medical Necessity Criteria - Must satisfy all of the following: I - II

I. Indications: A - C

- A. Scar revision in accordance with the *Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998* – as additional reconstructive surgery for breast cancer that may be required to achieve an optimal result and is medically necessary.

[Note: This also applies to any procedures related to diagnosed breast cancer (such as, but not limited to, lumpectomy, quadrantectomy, segmentectomy, tylectomy).]

- B. Scar revision for abnormal wound healing (eg, *atrophic, hypertrophic or keloid*), that is incidental to or follows surgery resulting from injury, sickness or other diseases of the involved part – any of the following: 1 or 2
1. ETF Health Plan (Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds) – excludes removal of *keloids* resulting from piercing and hair restoration, except when associated with a covered service to correct a functional impairment (*functional defect/physical impairment*) related to congenital bodily disorders or conditions or when associated with covered reconstructive surgery due to an illness or accidental injury (including subsequent removal of a prosthetic device that was related to such reconstructive surgery); or
  2. All other plans/groups – scar formation has resulted in any of the following: a or b
    - a. A *functional defect/physical impairment* (such as, but not limited to, contracture of an adjacent joint, or muscle); or

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- b. Significant symptomatology (such as, but not limited to, frequent infection, bleeding, pain, pruritus, or ulceration) not relieved by physician directed treatment.
  - C. Requests for scar causing a psychological condition – any of the following: 1 or 2
    1. ETF Health Plan (Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds) – excludes coverage for psychological reasons; or
    2. All other plans/groups – must have both of the following: a and b
      - a. Must have documentation from a *mental health professional* supporting that the member's clinical condition meets the diagnostic criteria for a *DSM* mental disorder diagnosis (eg, anxiety disorder, major depressive disorder, body dysmorphic disorder) and is causing clinically significant distress or impairment as evidenced by validated scales and measures - must satisfy the following: 1) or 2)
        - 1) Clinically significant distress is defined as a score of 2 standard deviations (SD) from the mean, by a disorder-specific symptom rating scale such as the Appearance Anxiety Inventory; or
        - 2) Clinically significant impairment is defined as a World Health Organization Disability Schedule (WHODAS) General Disability Score (GDS) of 2.6 using the current 0-4 scoring convention. (See Attachment A).
      - b. Where applicable, there must be documentation that the member has not responded, is intolerant to, or a poor candidate for other appropriate or conservative treatments for the member's clinical condition (eg, psychotherapy).
- II. Required documentation – both of the following: A - B
  - A. Letter documenting medical necessity from the requesting provider; and
  - B. Photographs may be requested.

**EXCLUSIONS (not limited to):**

Refer to member's Certificate of Coverage or Summary Plan Description

**DEFINITIONS:**Activities of Daily Living (ADL):

Eating, toileting, transferring, bathing, dressing, walking, and continence

Atrophic Scar:

Atrophic scars are dermal depressions most commonly caused by collagen destruction during the course of an inflammatory skin disease such as cystic acne or varicella. Scarring after inflammatory or cystic acne can manifest as atrophic scars.

Cosmetic:

Services, medications and procedures that improve physical appearance but do not correct or improve a physiological function, or are not medically necessary. See Medical Policy: MP/C002 Cosmetic Treatments.

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DSM:

The most current edition of the American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders

Functional Defect/ Physical Impairment:

A functional defect or physical/physiological impairment causes deviation from the normal function of a tissue or organ. This results in a significantly limited, impaired, or delayed capacity to move, coordinate actions, or perform physical activities and is exhibited by difficulties in one or more of the following areas: physical and motor tasks; independent movement; performing *activities of daily living*.

Hypertrophic Scar:

Hypertrophic scars are aggressively healing wounds after an injury to the skin. They tend to be thick, red and somewhat raised and remain within the limits of the original wound or surgical incision site. They look like a keloid scar however, they do not get as large as a keloid, tend to fade in color and dimension with time, and can occur in any racial ethnic background.

Keloid Scar:

A keloid is an overgrowth of dense fibrous tissue and is more common in people with dark complexions. The tissue extends beyond the borders of the original wound, usually does not regress spontaneously and tends to recur after excision.

Mental Health Professional:

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Psychologist, Psychiatric Advanced Practice Provider, Psychiatrist

Reconstructive:

The definition for reconstruction surgery can differ by benefit plan. Always refer to the member's benefit plan for the applicable reconstructive surgery definition.

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998:

A federal mandate concerning all reconstructive surgery following mastectomy for cancer; this mandate requires coverage of reconstructive surgery for ERISA, non-ERISA, and HMO plans.

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Prior Authorization: Yes, per network provider agreement.

## REFERENCES:

1. Integrated Healthcare Services Process Manual UR015 Use of Medical Policy and Criteria
2. Clinical Policy: Breast Reconstruction (MC/G004)
3. Clinical Policy: Cosmetic Procedures (MP/C002)
4. Clinical Policy: Coverage Determination Guidelines (MP/C009)
5. Clinical Policy: Reconstructive Surgery (MP/R002)
6. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act. Retrieved from [http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/whcra\\_factsheet.html](http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/whcra_factsheet.html). Accessed 05-31-24.
7. United States Department of Labor. Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA). Retrieved from <https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/ebsa/about-ebsa/our-activities/resource-center/publications/cagwhcra.pdf>. Accessed 05-31-24.
8. Veale D, Eshkevari E, Kanakam N, Ellison N, Dosta A, Werner T. The Appearance Anxiety Inventory: validation of a process measure in the treatment of body dysmorphic disorder. *Behav Cogn Psychother* 2014 Sep;42(5):605-16.
9. American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition. Arlington, VA, American Psychiatric Association, 2013.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY:

<b>Created Date:</b> 07/08/20 (previously MP/S008)
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## **Attachment A**

WHODAS 2.0, 12-items

### **12-item World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule**

In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in. . .

*(0) None. (1) Mild. (2) Moderate. (3) Severe. (4) Extreme/Cannot do.*

1. Standing for long periods such as 30 minutes?
2. Taking care of your household responsibilities?
3. Learning a new task, for example, learning how to get to a new place?
4. How much of a problem did you have in joining in community activities (for example, festivities, religious or other activities) in the same way as anyone else can?
5. How much have you been emotionally affected by your health problems?
6. Concentrating on doing something for ten minutes?
7. Walking a long distance such as a kilometre (or equivalent)?
8. Washing your whole body?
9. Getting dressed?
10. Dealing with people you do not know?
11. Maintaining a friendship?
12. Your day-to-day work?

The World Health Organisation Disability Assessment Schedule, WHODAS 2.0, 12 items, can be found at:

[https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/international-classification-of-functioning-disability-and-health/who-disability-assessment-schedule#:~:text=Scoring&text=Simple%3A%20the%20scores%20assigned%20to,\(4\)%20%E2%80%93%20are%20summed.](https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/international-classification-of-functioning-disability-and-health/who-disability-assessment-schedule#:~:text=Scoring&text=Simple%3A%20the%20scores%20assigned%20to,(4)%20%E2%80%93%20are%20summed.)

### **General Disability Score**

- < 1.0 = Little or no impairment
- 1.0 to 1.9 = Mild
- 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderate
- 3.0 to 3.9 = Severe
- 4.0 = Extreme or cannot do

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PCHP:

Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- Qualified sign language interpreters
- Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:

- Qualified interpreters
- Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact a Grievance Specialist.

If you believe that PCHP has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:

Grievance Specialist  
PreferredOne Community Health Plan  
PO Box 59052  
Minneapolis, MN 55459-0052  
Phone: 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013)  
Fax: 763.847.4010  
[customerservice@preferredone.com](mailto:customerservice@preferredone.com)

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, a Grievance Specialist is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

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LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

XIYYEEFFANNAA: Afaan dubbattu Oroomiffa, tajaajila gargaarsa afaanii, kanfaltiidhaan ala, ni argama. Bilbilaa 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).

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Fax: 763.847.4010  
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200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
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