Policy:

VCHCP considers medically necessary an external breast prosthesis and post-mastectomy bras following a medically necessary mastectomy (unilateral or bilateral). Request for these prostheses will be authorized when a member elects to use external breast prosthesis in lieu of, prior to, during or after breast reconstruction surgery following a mastectomy.

VCHCP will authorize coverage for the following:

- Two post-mastectomy replacement bras every 12 months
- One replacement silicone breast prosthesis (in the case of unilateral mastectomy) or two breast prostheses (in the case of bilateral mastectomy) every 24 months
- Replacements of fabric, foam, or fiber-filled breast prostheses every 6 months. The medical necessity of more frequent replacements must be documented.

Note: The additional features of a custom-fabricated breast prosthesis, compared to a pre-fabricated silicone breast prosthesis, are not considered medically necessary.

Definitions:

Prosthesis: A device used to substitute for a missing body part.
Prosthetic Brassiere: A device used to house a breast prosthesis.

Procedure:
A treatment authorization request (TAR) must be submitted to VCHCP by the member’s treating physician.

A. Attachments – None

B. Author/Reviewer: Sheldon Haas, MD; Date: June 2007
   Reviewed/Revised: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: Nov 11, 2011
   Committee Review: UM: November 10, 2011; QAC November 22, 2011
   Reviewed/No Changes: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: April 17, 2012
   Committee Reviews: UM: May 10, 2012; QAC May 22, 2012
   Reviewed/No Updates: Catherine Sanders, MD
   Committee Review: UM: February 12, 2015; QAC February 24, 2015
C. References

1. H&SC 1367.18. Coverage for orthotic and prosthetic devices and services

2. H&SC 1367.6. Coverage for breast cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment; Denial of enrollment of coverage on grounds related to breast cancer; Prosthetic devices or reconstructive surgery

3. H&SC 1367.635 Mastectomies and lymph node dissections