

Gender Affirming Procedures

Policy:

Ventura County Health Care Plan (VCHCP) adopted the Standards of Care developed by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) as a guideline for coverage and guideline/criteria as available when making prior authorization determinations in accordance with SB-855 ([Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People](#))

WPATH shall be used as a guideline for coverage of all services for members diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria.

For those services/procedures/surgeries for which WPATH provides guidelines/criteria, WPATH shall be used as a guideline/criteria by VCHCP when making prior authorization determinations in accordance with SB-855 ([Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People](#)).

For those services/procedures/surgeries for which WPATH does NOT provide guidelines/criteria, VCHCP's Medical Policy for Gender Affirming Procedures shall be used as a guideline/criteria when making prior authorization determinations in accordance with SB-855 ([Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People](#)). The services/procedures/surgeries for which WPATH does NOT provide guideline/criteria include but not limited to the following: voice and communication therapy, reproductive health (sperm preservation, oocyte or embryo freezing), surgeries for assisting in body feminization (reduction thyroid chondroplasty, voice modification surgery, suction-assisted lipoplasty, facial bone reduction etc), surgeries for assisting in body masculinization (liposuction, lipofilling, pectoral implants etc).

Prior Authorization Criteria:

Diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria

Gender Dysphoria is broadly defined as discomfort or distress that is caused by a discrepancy between a person's gender identity and that person's sex assigned at birth (and the associated gender role and/or primary and secondary sex characteristics).

A. Attachments: Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming People – The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)



WPATH SOC
V7_English2012.pdf

B. Review History:

Policy created by Howard Taekman, MD on 6/18/21
 Reviewed/No Updates: Howard Taekman, MD
 Committee Review: UM: August 12, 2021; QAC: August 24, 2021
 Reviewed/Updated: Howard Taekman, MD
 Committee Review: UM: November 12, 2021; QAC: November 23, 2021
 Reviewed/ Updated: Howard Taekman, MD
 Committee Review: UM: February 17, 2022; QAC: February 22, 2022

| Revision Date | Content Revised (Yes/No) | Contributors | Review/Revision Notes |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| 8/12/21 | No | Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD | NEW |
| 11/12/21 | Yes | Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD | Updated to adopt the Standards of Care developed by WPATH |
| 2/17/22 | Yes | Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD | Updated to meet DMHC SB855 requirement: WPATH shall be used as a guideline for coverage of all services for members diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria. For those services/procedures/surgeries for which WPATH provides guidelines/criteria, WPATH shall be used as a guideline/criteria by VCHCP when making prior authorization determinations. |

Medical Policy:
Gender Affirming Procedures
 Effective Date: 8/12/21
 Reviewed/Updated: 11/12/21; 2/17/22

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| | | <p>For those services/procedures/surgeries for which WPATH does NOT provide guidelines/criteria, VCHCP’s Medical Policy for Gender Affirming Procedures shall be used as a guideline/criteria when making prior authorization determinations. The services/procedures/surgeries for which WPATH does NOT provide guideline/criteria include but not limited to the following: voice and communication therapy, reproductive health (sperm preservation, oocyte or embryo freezing), surgeries for assisting in body feminization (reduction thyroid chondroplasty, voice modification surgery, suction-assisted lipoplasty, facial bone reduction etc), surgeries for assisting in body masculinization (liposuction, lipofilling, pectoral implants etc).</p> |
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