



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF COVERAGE FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY FOLLOWING A MASTECTOMY

Mastectomy Care

The Plan shall offer forty-eight (48) hours of Inpatient care for a mastectomy; and twenty-four (24) hours of Inpatient care following lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer. The Plan will also cover mastectomy-related services; including all stages of breast reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts; prostheses; and any complications resulting from a mastectomy, including lymphedema and contralateral prophylactic mastectomies. Requests for reconstructions after reconstruction post-mastectomy require Preauthorization, and clinical information must be reviewed by a Medical Director for Medical Necessity. Requests that are cosmetic in nature are not a Covered Benefit

Mastectomy or Lymph Node Dissection

Minimum Inpatient Stay: If due to treatment of breast cancer, any person covered by Us has either a mastectomy or a lymph node dissection, we will provide coverage for inpatient care for a minimum of:

- (a) 48 hours following a mastectomy, and
- (b) 24 hours following a lymph node dissection.

The minimum number of inpatient hours is not required if the covered person receiving the treatment and the attending physician determine that a shorter period of inpatient care is appropriate.

Prohibitions: We may not:

- (a) deny any covered person eligibility or continued eligibility or fail to renew this plan solely to avoid providing the minimum inpatient hours;
- (b) provide money payments or rebates to encourage any covered person to accept less than the minimum inpatient hours;
- (c) reduce or limit the amount paid to the attending physician, or otherwise penalize the physician, because the physician required a covered person to receive the minimum inpatient hours; or
- (d) provide financial or other incentives to the attending physician to encourage the physician to provide care that is less than the minimum hours.

Coverage and/or Benefits for Reconstructive Surgery After Mastectomy Coverage and/or benefits are provided to each covered person for reconstructive surgery after mastectomy, including:

- (a) all stages of the reconstruction of the breast on which mastectomy has been performed;
- (b) surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to achieve a symmetrical appearance; and
- (c) prostheses and treatment of physical complications, including lymphedemas, at all stages of mastectomy.

The coverage and/or benefits must be provided in a manner determined to be appropriate in consultation with the covered person and the attending physician.

CHRISTUS shall cover annual preventive cancer screenings for a Member who was previously diagnosed with breast cancer, completed treatment for breast cancer, underwent a bilateral mastectomy, and was subsequently determined to be clear of cancer.

CHRISTUS shall cover benefits payable for minimum mammography examination, including but not limited to digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT). Minimum mammography examination means mammography examinations performed no less frequently than the following schedule provides: One baseline mammogram for any woman who is 35 through 39 years of age. Annual mammogram (DBT preferred modality) for any woman who is 40 or older. Consideration is given to women with a hereditary susceptibility from pathogenic mutation carrier status or prior chest wall radiation, an annual MRI starting at age twenty-five and annual mammography (DBT preferred modality) starting at age thirty. Such examinations shall be in accordance with recommendations by National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines or the American Society of Breast Surgeons Position Statement on Screening Mammography no later than the following policy or plan year following changes in the recommendations. Annual mammography (DBT preferred modality) and access to supplemental imaging (MRI preferred modality) starting at age thirty-five upon recommendation by her physician if the woman has a predicted lifetime risk greater than twenty percent by any validated model published in peer reviewed medical literature.

Additionally, your contract, as required by the federal Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, provides benefits for mastectomy-related services including reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy (including lymphedema).

CHRISTUS Health Plan
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