
| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------|------------|
| Subject: | Cosmetic and Reconstructive Services: Skin Related | Publish Date: | 10/01/2025 |
| Document #: | ANC.00007 | Last Review Date: | 05/08/2025 |
| Status: | Reviewed | | |

Description/Scope

This document addresses the cosmetic, reconstructive, and medically necessary uses of a selection of nonpharmacological techniques used in the treatment of skin lesions and related conditions. Techniques addressed include, but are not limited to peels, abrasion, lasers, and surgical procedures such as sclerotherapy.

Note: Please see the following related documents for additional information:

- ANC.00008 Cosmetic and Reconstructive Services of the Head and Neck
- CG-DME-41 Ultraviolet Light Therapy Delivery Devices for Home Use
- CG-SURG-31 Treatment of Keloids and Scar Revision
- CG-SURG-99 Panniculectomy and Abdominoplasty
- CG-SURG-123 Autologous Fat Grafting and Injectable Soft Tissue Fillers
- CG-SURG-127 Products for Wound Healing and Soft Tissue Grafting: Medically Necessary Uses
- MED.00132 Autologous Adipose-derived Regenerative Cell Therapy
- SURG.00011 Products for Wound Healing and Soft Tissue Grafting: Investigational
- SURG.00023 Breast Procedures; including Reconstructive Surgery, Implants and Other Breast Procedures

Note: This document does not address gender affirming surgery or procedures. Criteria for gender affirming surgery or procedures are found in applicable guidelines used by the plan.

Note: This document does not address light therapy (such as laser ultraviolet A [PUVA] or B therapy [for example, Xenon-Chloride, Excimer]) to treat vitiligo.

Medically Necessary: In this document, procedures are considered medically necessary if there is a significant functional impairment AND the procedure can be reasonably expected to improve the functional impairment.

Reconstructive: In this document, procedures are considered reconstructive when intended to address a significant variation from normal related to accidental injury, disease, trauma, treatment of a disease or a congenital defect.

Note: Not all benefit contracts/certificates include benefits for reconstructive services as defined by this document. Benefit language supersedes this document.

Cosmetic: In this document, procedures are considered cosmetic when intended to change a physical appearance that would be considered within normal human anatomic variation. Cosmetic services are often described as those that are primarily intended to preserve or improve appearance.

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

Position Statement

A. Chemical Peels

Chemical peels (known as epidermal peels or chemotherapy of the skin) are considered **medically necessary** for active acne.

Medium or deep chemical peels, referred to as dermal peels are considered **medically necessary** when there is documented evidence of 10 or more actinic keratoses or other pre-malignant skin lesions that have failed topical retinoid treatment, topical chemotherapeutic agents **and** cryotherapy.

Chemical peels of any type are considered **cosmetic and not medically necessary** when performed in the absence of a significant functional impairment and are intended to change a physical appearance that would be considered within normal human anatomic variation. Examples include, but are not limited to, treatment of photoaged skin, wrinkles, acne scarring or uneven epidermal pigmentation.

B. Cutaneous Hemangioma, Port Wine Birthmark (previously known as Port Wine Stain) and other Vascular Lesions

Treatment of cutaneous hemangioma, port wine birthmark, or other vascular lesions is considered **medically necessary** when there is documented evidence of significant functional impairment (for example, bleeding or a lesion which interferes with vision) and the procedure can be reasonably expected to improve the functional impairment.

Treatment of cutaneous hemangioma, port wine birthmark, or other vascular lesions using lasers or other methods to restore appearance is considered **reconstructive** when intended to address a significant variation from normal related to a congenital defect.

Treatment of cutaneous hemangioma, port wine birthmark, or other vascular lesions is considered **cosmetic and not medically necessary** when performed in the absence of a significant functional impairment, are not reconstructive, and are intended to change a physical appearance that would be considered within normal human anatomic variation.

C. Dermabrasion

Dermabrasion (that is, abrasion, salabrasion) is considered **medically necessary** for the treatment of actinic keratoses, other pre-malignant skin lesions and localized non-melanoma malignant skin lesions. Examples include, but are not limited to, basal cell carcinoma and carcinoma in-situ.

Dermabrasion or salabrasion is considered **cosmetic and not medically necessary** when performed in the absence of a significant functional impairment and are intended to change a physical appearance that would be considered within normal human anatomic variation. Examples include, but are not limited to, enhance the appearance of the upper layer of the skin as a result of acne, acne scars, uneven pigmentation or wrinkles.

D. Hair Procedures

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

Permanent removal of hair is considered **medically necessary** for recurrent infected cyst, hair follicle infections, or after surgical treatment of pilonidal sinus disease.

Hairplasty for alopecia, including but not limited to androgenetic alopecia, and temporary or permanent removal of hair using electrolysis, lasers, or waxing is considered **cosmetic and not medically necessary** when performed in the absence of a significant functional impairment and are intended to change a physical appearance that would be considered within normal human anatomic variation.

E. Laser and Surgical Treatment of Rosacea and Telangiectasia

Laser or surgical management of rosacea is considered **medically necessary** when the rosacea is severe, refractory to standard medical therapy, and preoperative photos document the clinical skin changes requiring treatment.

Laser or surgical treatment of rosacea or isolated telangiectasias (including spider veins) is considered **cosmetic and not medically necessary** when performed in the absence of a significant functional impairment and are intended to change a physical appearance that would be considered within normal human anatomic variation.

F. Other Cosmetic Skin Procedures

Laser skin resurfacing is considered **cosmetic and not medically necessary** for all indications, including but not limited to the treatment of facial wrinkles and skin irregularities (for example, acne scars or blemishes).

Microneedling, also known as percutaneous collagen induction therapy or skin needling, is considered **cosmetic and not medically necessary** for all indications, including but not limited to the treatment of facial wrinkles and skin irregularities (for example, acne scars or blemishes).

Removal or excision of a tattoo is considered **cosmetic and not medically necessary** for all indications.

G. Tattoos (Application)

Tattooing of skin is considered **medically necessary** when done as part of a medically necessary therapeutic treatment. An example includes, but is not limited to, tattooing related to radiation therapy.

Tattooing of the skin is considered **reconstructive** when performed as part of a covered breast reconstruction.

Tattooing of skin is considered **cosmetic and not medically necessary** when the medically necessary or reconstructive criteria in this section are not met.

Rationale

Concepts of Medical Necessity, Reconstructive and Cosmetic

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

The coverage eligibility of medical and surgical therapies to treat skin conditions is often based on a determination of whether treatment is considered medically necessary, reconstructive or cosmetic in nature. In many instances the concept of reconstructive overlaps with the concept of medical necessity. For example, services intended to correct a significant functional impairment as a result of trauma will be considered medically necessary and thus eligible for coverage, regardless of the contract language pertaining to reconstructive services, unless some other exclusion applies. Generally, reconstructive is often taken to mean that the service “returns the patient to whole” as a result of a congenital anomaly, disease or other condition including post trauma or post therapy, while cosmetic generally describes improving a physical appearance that would be considered within normal human anatomic variation. Categories of conditions without associated functional impairment that may be included as reconstructive include or may be due to the following: a) surgery, b) accidental trauma or injury, c) diseases, d) congenital anomalies, e) severe anatomic variants, and f) chemotherapy.

Background/Overview

Chemical peels

Acne vulgaris is the most common form of acne, occurring in an estimated 85% of the adolescent population in the United States. While, for the most part, the manifestations of acne vulgaris are temporary, severe cases may result in permanent scarring. There are several local factors that contribute to the development of acne vulgaris, including blocked hair follicles, enlargement of specific skin glands, over production of skin glands, use of products that promote bacterial growth, and inflammatory responses to bacterial overgrowth. Other less common causes include hormonal imbalance and some medications. Recommendations for treatment include topical therapy as the standard of care in acne management, with systemic antibiotics as the standard of care in the management of moderate and severe presentations of acne and treatment-resistant forms of inflammatory acne. Intralesional corticosteroid injections are identified as effective in the treatment of individual acne nodules.

Chemical peels are a group of skin procedures used to treat a wide variety of skin conditions including pre-malignant and selected malignant skin lesions, aged skin, wrinkles, acne, acne scarring and uneven epidermal pigmentation. One of several chemical solutions is used (for example, glycolic acid, salicylic acid, or lactic acid) which are applied to the skin causing it to "blister" and eventually peel off. The new, regenerated skin is usually free of any lesions and is generally smoother and less wrinkled than the original skin.

Cutaneous hemangioma, port wine birthmark, and other vascular lesions

Vascular birthmarks are commonly encountered in children and are classified as either hemangiomas or vascular malformations, with cutaneous vascular lesions being the most common type of pediatric birthmark. Vascular malformations (flat lesions) include nevus simplex or nevus telangiectaticus (also known as salmon patch) and nevus flammeus (port wine birthmark, previously known as port wine stain). An estimated 0.03-0.05% of newborns are born with port wine birthmarks (Brightman, 2015; Hagen, 2017; Ren, 2021). Hemangiomas (raised lesions) include superficial hemangioma (capillary nevus hemangioma) and deep hemangioma (cavernous hemangioma). Infantile hemangiomas (IHs) are the most common vascular tumors of childhood, affecting 5% of all infants. IHs present in infancy and early childhood; 12% occur in infancy and 42% occur within the first 5 years (Darrow, 2015). Most lesions are characterized by a pattern of rapid proliferation and then involute with minimal consequence and do not require treatment. Semkova and colleagues (2015) note 90% of IH cases experience

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

complete regression by age 9. However, a significant minority of cases can be disfiguring, functionally significant, or, rarely, with severe systemic complications (Glick, 2012; Hartzell, 2012). Some hemangiomas, including those of the nose and lip, are likely to lead to scarring and loss of function when the lesion involutes.

Multiple factors are typically taken into account when determining the appropriate therapy to treat IH. The American Academy of Pediatrics (2015) lists those contributing factors:

1. Age of the patient,
2. Growth phase of the lesion,
3. Location and size of the lesion,
4. Degree of skin involvement,
5. Severity of complication and urgency of intervention,
6. Potential for adverse psychosocial consequences,
7. Parental preference, and
8. Physician experience.

Ulceration is a common complication in proliferation of IH. Typically, topical treatments are initially used to treat IH. IHs may also be treated by a β -blocker (propranolol) or other oral therapies. Surgery and laser treatments may be used in select cases (Krowchuk, 2019). Pulsed dye laser (PDL) may be effective in managing ulcerated IH, however propranolol appears to be associated with faster ulceration healing than laser therapy (Krowchuk, 2019).

Port wine birthmarks (low-flow vascular malformations), a condition present at birth, consist of superficial and deep dilated skin lesions appearing as flat, faint, pink-red patches. The lesions, comprised of immature, venule-like vasculature, progressively enlarge and darken over time (Sabeti, 2020; van Raath, 2020). Lesions are often located on the trunk and extremities, but are most frequently located in prominent areas, such as the head and neck (Brightman, 2015). The chronic progressive nature of the condition can lead to cutaneous hypertrophy, the development of nodules or decreased facial mobility (Brightman, 2015; Sabeti, 2020).

Several classification techniques have been explored in order to consistently assess and classify the severity of port wine birthmarks to aid in the selection of treatment methods and the evaluation of treatment effects. Multiple factors may be taken into account including, but not limited to area, color, thickness of the lesions and diameter and location of dilated vessels (Ren, 2021). There is currently no widely accepted standard method of classifying the severity of port wine birthmarks.

Port wine birthmarks rarely indicate the presence of a sign of serious health problem, except in conditions such as Sturge-Weber or Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber syndrome. Some port wine birthmarks may occasionally bleed with trauma, resulting in potential deformity and disfigurement. Early treatment may prevent the progression of development to hypertrophy and nodules in later years. Evidence in the peer-reviewed medical literature suggests efficacy is increased if lesions are treated in infancy, although size, location, color, localization hypertrophy and vessel architecture are also predictors of outcome (Conlon and Drolet, 2004; Jeon, 2019; Tran, 2021). Facial port wine birthmarks involving the upper and lower eyelids (trigeminal or ophthalmic distribution) may be associated with the development of glaucoma. Freezing, surgery, radiation, and tattooing have been proposed for the treatment of port wine birthmarks, but PDL treatment is considered the gold standard treatment (Tucci, 2009; Yang, 2005; van Raath, 2020).

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

The presence of vascular birthmarks may have a negative impact on health-related quality of life and psychosocial development (Sabeti, 2021). Individuals with visible differences may be subject to stigmatizing behaviors (staring, avoidance, teasing and expressions of pity) which may negatively affect social encounters. Difficulties may begin or become more prominent in adolescence, when appearance, peer approval and identity issues become more important (Masnari, 2013). The negative impact on quality of life continues through adulthood, particularly in untreated individuals (Hagen, 2017; Stor, 2022).

Several types of lasers have been used to treat hemangioma, port wine birthmarks, and vascular lesions. The most common in clinical practice is the PDL, which uses yellow light wavelengths (585-600 nm) that selectively penetrate up to 2 millimeters in the skin. Infants and young children, who have thinner skin, tend to respond well to this type of laser. Response in thicker and darker lesions may be lower. Other types of lasers with greater tissue penetration are used for hypertrophic and resistant port wine birthmarks. Alternatives to the PDL are the long-pulsed 1064 nm Nd:YAG and 755 nm pulsed Alexandrite lasers. Intense pulsed light (IPL) devices emit polychromatic high-intensity pulsed light with a pulse duration in the millisecond range, using an emission spectrum ranging from 500 to 1400 nm. Compared to other types of lasers, IPL devices include both the oxyhemoglobin selective wavelengths emitted by PDL systems and longer wavelengths that allow deeper penetration into the dermis. Several laser systems have been cleared for marketing by the FDA through the 510(k) process for a variety of dermatologic indications, including treatment of port wine birthmarks.

Dermabrasion

Dermabrasion, or surgical skin planing, is a treatment of pre-malignant and malignant skin lesions and acne, which also has cosmetic uses. During this procedure, the skin is mechanically sanded, removing the epidermis to expose the reticular dermis. Treatment is performed to eliminate lesions, improve contour, promote re-epithelialization and achieve a rejuvenated appearance. Salabrasion therapy uses salt impregnated gauze pads to remove the upper layers of skin. Dermabrasion is performed under local or general anesthesia and requires extended recuperation (El-Domyati, 2017).

Microdermabrasion is a less invasive form of dermabrasion, removing only the top layer of skin, the stratum corneum. Microdermabrasion requires no anesthesia and can be repeated within a short period of time. Multiple treatments are frequently needed for results to be apparent. Hydrodermabrasion, a crystal free type of microdermabrasion, typically exfoliates by using a liquid solution spray followed by suction. Microdermabrasion is used in skin rejuvenation and has been used to improve the appearance of melasma, post-acne scarring, striae distensae, and photoaging (El-Domyati, 2016).

Hair Procedures

The most common type of alopecia (hair loss) is androgenetic alopecia. It is typically permanent, hereditary and can affect any gender. There are no health-related ramifications of this condition. The available treatments for alopecia include hairpieces, medications to promote hair growth, and hairplasty.

Hair growth can occur anywhere on the face or body and individual patterns are largely determined by genetic makeup. Hirsutism is a condition defined by excessive terminal hair growth, resulting in coarse and pigmented hair on unexpected areas of the body such as the face, chest, and back (areas considered typical of “male-pattern” hair growth). Hirsutism may arise from excess androgens, primarily testosterone (most commonly associated with

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

polycystic ovary syndrome). Temporary measures to remove hair include waxing, shaving, depilatory creams or medications. Permanent methods include electrolysis or laser hair removal. Electrolysis removes hair permanently by delivering a small electrical current through a needle inserted into the hair follicle which destroys the follicle and prevents regrowth. Laser techniques use concentrated beams of light to destroy the follicle.

The use of hair removal procedures as part of a planned gender affirming surgery is addressed in applicable guidelines used by the plan.

Laser and Surgical Treatment of Rosacea and Telangiectasia

Rosacea is a common inflammatory skin disorder characterized by intermittent facial flushing in the center of the face with redness that can slowly spread to the eyes, forehead, nose, cheeks, and chin. Extra-facial lesions involve the ears, chest, and back. According to the 2017 National Rosacea Society classification system, a rosacea diagnosis can be made when at least one diagnostic cutaneous sign or two major phenotypes are present (Gallo, 2017). Permanent telangiectasias may develop. Sebaceous hyperplasia, fibrosis and edema (rhinophyma), and ocular involvement characterize more severe forms of the disease. More than 50% of rosacea cases involve ocular manifestations including corneal inflammation, scarring and visual loss due to corneal perforation (Thimboutot, 2020). The treatment of rosacea is dictated by the severity of the disease. Because the diagnosis of rosacea is made on the basis of clinical features, several of which may be common to other skin conditions, differentiation of rosacea from other diseases/conditions may be required. Isolated telangiectasia in the absence of other signs and symptoms are not diagnostic of rosacea. When avoidance of common environmental (sun exposure or temperature changes) or dietary (alcohol, spicy foods) triggers is inadequate, oral antibiotics or topical agents (antibiotics, azelaic acid, isotretinoin, sulfacetamide) are employed. In general, a 12-week trial of topical treatment is used to assess response. Laser treatment and surgical intervention is reserved for cases which are unresponsive to other treatments.

Telangiectasias, also known as spider veins, are abnormally dilated blood vessels associated with a number of diseases such as ataxia-telangiectasia and scleroderma but are mostly benign in nature and due to hereditary or unknown factors. Spider veins may appear anywhere on the body but are most commonly located on the arms, face or legs. Treatment of spider veins may be performed with laser therapy or injection of a sclerosing solution.

Other Cosmetic Skin Procedures

Laser skin resurfacing involves using a strong laser to literally burn away the superficial skin layers in order to remove skin lesions such as pre-cancerous lesions, acne scars, or wrinkles. A number of lasers can be used in treatment. Fractional lasers use a narrow beam of laser light to treat a very specific area while non-fractional laser treatments cover a larger area and are typically more invasive (Verma, 2021). In addition to fractional lasers, ablative lasers have been used for a variety of conditions including scars, pigmentations, and rhytides (wrinkles), as well as for skin resurfacing and rejuvenation. Non-ablative lasers are considered less destructive and have been used primarily to stimulate new collagen synthesis (Heidari Beigvand, 2020).

Microneedling, also known as percutaneous collagen induction therapy or skin needling, has been proposed as a means of stimulating the body's regenerative properties to trigger the growth of new skin. The procedure involves rolling a drum shaped device with a cylindrical head imbedded with needles, or a pen shaped device, across the skin to create a series of dermal micro-injuries. Each micro-lesion triggers the wound healing process and the release of

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

several growth factors which stimulate the production and deposition of collagen and elastin within the dermis (Alster, 2018). The disruption of the epidermal barrier is minimal, resulting in scarless wound healing. The device can be used alone or with topical products or a fractional microneedling radiofrequency device. The procedure is considered a minimally invasive option to treat conditions such as acne scarring or wrinkles (Alster, 2018; Harris, 2015; Ramaut, 2017).

Tattoos

Tattooing is the permanent injection of ink under the skin for decorative or medical purposes. Tattoos are usually permanent and cannot be removed without interventions such as laser treatment, dermabrasion, or surgical removal. While tattoo removal is usually effective, some scarring or skin discoloration may result from the procedure.

Definitions

Acne vulgaris: The most common form of acne, found primarily in adolescents but may be seen in adults.

Actinic keratoses: Common sun-exposure related skin lesions microscopically involving the epidermis alone but with the potential to progress to invasive cancer (squamous cell carcinoma) in a small percentage of cases; also referred to as solar keratoses.

Chemical peels: A group of medical procedures using various chemicals to remove the outer layers of the skin.

Dermabrasion (salabrasion): A group of medical procedures using physical scrubbing methods to remove the outer layer of the skin.

Electrolysis: A procedure designed to permanently remove unwanted hair using an electric current to destroy hair follicles.

Functional impairment: Significant functional impairment may include physical, social, emotional, and psychological impairments or potential impairments. Examples of limits on normal physical functioning include problems with communication, respiration, eating, swallowing, visual impairments, skin integrity, distortion of nearby body parts, or obstruction of an orifice. The cause of the functional impairment may be pain, structural integrity, congenital anomalies or other factors.

Hairplasty: A surgical procedure designed to transplant or implant hair by taking tiny plugs of skin, containing one to several hairs, from the back or side of the scalp and re-implanting them into areas where hair has been lost, such as in the case of androgenetic baldness. Several transplant sessions may be needed as hereditary hair loss progresses with time.

Hirsutism: A condition defined as excessive terminal hair growth.

Klippel-Trenaunay syndrome: A rare condition present at birth that usually involves port wine birthmarks, excess growth of bones and soft tissue, and varicose veins.

Laser skin resurfacing: A group of medical procedures using laser light methods to remove the outer layer of the skin.

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

Port wine birthmark: A congenital hemangioma which is visible as a mark on the skin that resembles port wine in its rich ruby red color. These marks are due to an abnormal aggregation of capillaries in a portion of the skin.

Rosacea: A common dermatologic condition characterized by symptoms of facial flushing and a spectrum of clinical signs, including erythema, telangiectasia, and inflammatory papular or pustular eruptions resembling acne.

Skin lesion: A nonspecific term referring to any change in the skin surface. While some skin lesions represent conditions requiring medical treatment, others do not.

Skin resurfacing: A variety of procedures used to alter skin texture and appearance by removing the outer layers of skin.

Sturge-Weber syndrome: A rare disorder present at birth with symptoms that include port wine birthmark (usually on the face) and nervous system dysfunction; also referred to as encephalotrigeminal angiomatosis.

Telangiectasias: A condition characterized by small, red or blue spider-web-like marks close to the surface of the skin caused by permanent dilation of small blood vessels. These blood vessels look like thick red lines and may occur in any part of the body, but most commonly are seen on the legs, torso and face; commonly called spider veins.

Coding

The following codes for treatments and procedures applicable to this document are included below for informational purposes. Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure, diagnosis or device code(s) does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement policy. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage of these services as it applies to an individual member.

A. Chemical Peels

When Services may be Medically Necessary when criteria are met:

CPT

15788-15789 Chemical peel, facial [includes codes 15788, 15789]
15792-15793 Chemical peel, nonfacial [includes codes 15792, 15793]

ICD-10 Diagnosis

C44.00-C44.99 Basal cell, squamous cell, other or unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin
D03.0-D03.9 Melanoma in situ
D04.0-D04.9 Carcinoma in situ of skin
D22.0-D22.9 Melanocytic nevi
D23.0-D23.9 Other benign neoplasm of skin
D48.5 Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of skin
D49.2 Neoplasm of unspecified behavior of bone, soft tissue, and skin
L57.0 Actinic keratosis
L70.0-L70.9 Acne

When services are Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary:

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

For the procedure codes listed above when criteria are not met or for all other diagnoses not listed; or when the code describes a procedure indicated in the Position Statement section as cosmetic and not medically necessary.

B. Cutaneous Hemangiomas and Port Wine Birthmark

When services may be Medically Necessary or Reconstructive when criteria are met:

CPT

17106-17108 Destruction of cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions (eg, laser technique) [includes codes 17106, 17107, 17108]
 Note: these codes are specific to the destruction of benign cutaneous vascular proliferative lesions, such as congenital port wine birthmarks, and use of these codes for other lesions is not appropriate.

ICD-10 Diagnosis

D18.00 Hemangioma unspecified site
 D18.01 Hemangioma of skin and subcutaneous tissue
 D22.0-D22.9 Melanocytic nevi
 I78.0-I78.1 Hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, nevus, non-neoplastic
 Q82.5 Congenital non-neoplastic nevus

When services are Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary:

For the procedure codes listed above when criteria are not met for medically necessary or reconstructive services; or when the code describes a procedure indicated in the Position Statement section as cosmetic and not medically necessary.

C. Dermabrasion, Abrasion

When services are Medically Necessary:

CPT

15780-15782 Dermabrasion [includes codes 15780, 15781, 15782]
 15786-15787 Abrasion (lesion) [includes codes 15786, 15787]

ICD-10 Diagnosis

C4A.0-C4A.9 Merkel cell carcinoma
 C44.00-C44.99 Basal cell, squamous cell, other or unspecified malignant neoplasm of skin
 D04.0-D04.9 Carcinoma in situ of skin
 L57.0 Actinic keratosis

When services are Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary:

For the procedure codes listed above for all other diagnoses not listed; or when the code describes a procedure indicated in the Position Statement section as cosmetic and not medically necessary.

When Services are also Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary:

CPT

15783 Dermabrasion; superficial, any site (eg, tattoo removal)

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

ICD-10 Diagnosis

All diagnoses

D. Hair Procedures

When services may be Medically Necessary when criteria are met:

CPT

17380 Electrolysis epilation, each ½ hour
 17999 Unlisted procedure, skin, mucous membrane and subcutaneous tissue [when specified as permanent hair removal by laser]

ICD-10 Procedure

0HDSXZZ Extraction of hair, external approach

ICD-10 Diagnosis

L05.01-L05.92 Pilonidal cyst and sinus
 L72.11-L72.12 Pilar and trichodermal cyst
 L73.9 Follicular disorder, unspecified

When services are Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary:

For the procedure and diagnosis codes listed above when criteria are not met, for all other diagnoses not listed, or when the code describes a procedure indicated in the Position Statement section as cosmetic and not medically necessary.

When services are also Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary:

CPT

15775, 15776 Punch graft for hair transplant

ICD-10 Procedure

0HRSX7Z Replacement of hair with autologous tissue substitute, external approach
 0HRSXJZ Replacement of hair with synthetic substitute, external approach
 0HRSXKZ Replacement of hair with nonautologous tissue substitute, external approach

ICD-10 Diagnosis

All diagnoses

E. Laser and Surgical Treatment of Rosacea and Telangiectasia

When Services may be Medically Necessary when criteria are met:

CPT

96999 Unlisted special dermatological service or procedure [when specified as laser treatment, pulsed dye laser or light treatment]

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy**Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related****ICD-10 Diagnosis**

L71.0-L71.9 Rosacea

When services are Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary:

For the procedure and diagnosis codes listed above when medically necessary criteria are not met, for telangiectasia diagnosis listed below, or when the code describes a procedure indicated in the Position Statement section as cosmetic and not medically necessary.

ICD-10 Diagnosis

I78.0-I78.1 Hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, nevus, non-neoplastic

When Services are also Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary:**CPT**

36468 Injection(s) of sclerosant for spider veins (telangiectasia), limb or trunk

ICD-10 Diagnosis

All diagnoses

*F. Other services***When services are Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary:**

When the code describes a procedure indicated in the Position Statement section as cosmetic and not medically necessary.

CPT

17999 Unlisted procedure, skin, mucous membrane and subcutaneous tissue [when specified as laser skin resurfacing, tattoo removal (other than by dermabrasion), or microneedling]

ICD-10 Diagnosis

All diagnoses

*G. Tattooing***When services are Medically Necessary:****CPT**

11920-11922 Tattooing, intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin, including micropigmentation [includes codes 11920, 11921, 11922]

ICD-10 Procedure

3E00XMZ Introduction of pigment into skin and mucous membranes, external approach

ICD-10 Diagnosis

C00.0-C49.A9 Malignant neoplasms

C51.0-C79.72 Malignant neoplasms

C79.82-C96.9 Malignant neoplasms

D00.00-D04.9 Carcinoma in situ

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

| | |
|---------------|--|
| D06.0-D09.9 | Carcinoma in situ |
| D37.01-D48.5 | Neoplasm of uncertain behavior |
| D48.7-D48.9 | Neoplasm of uncertain behavior |
| Z51.0 | Encounter for antineoplastic radiation therapy |
| Z85.00-Z85.29 | Personal history of malignant neoplasm |
| Z85.40-Z85.9 | Personal history of malignant neoplasm |

When services may be Medically Necessary or reconstructive when criteria are met:

For the procedure codes listed above for the following diagnoses:

Note: for criteria for breast reconstruction, see SURG.00023

ICD-10 Diagnosis

| | |
|----------------|--|
| C50.011-C50.A2 | Malignant neoplasm of breast |
| C79.81 | Secondary malignant neoplasm of breast |
| D05.00-D05.92 | Carcinoma in situ of breast |
| D48.60-D48.62 | Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of breast |
| Z85.3 | Personal history of malignant neoplasm of breast |

When services are Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary:

For the procedure codes listed above when medically necessary or reconstructive criteria are not met; or when the code describes a procedure indicated in the Position Statement section as cosmetic and not medically necessary.

References

Peer Reviewed Publications:

1. Alster TS, Graham PM. Microneedling: a review and practical guide. *Dermatol Surg.* 2018; 44(3):397-404.
2. Badawy EA, Kanawati MN. Effect of hair removal by Nd: YAG laser on the recurrence of pilonidal sinus. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol.* 2009; 23(8):883-886.
3. Brightman LA, Geronemus RG, Reddy KK. Laser treatment of port-wine stains. *Clin Cosmet Investig Dermatol.* 2015; 8:27-33.
4. Carmina E, Koyama T, Chang L, et al. Does ethnicity influence the prevalence of adrenal hyperandrogenism and insulin resistance in polycystic ovary syndrome? *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 1992; 167(6):1807-1812.
5. Castineiras I, Del Pozo J, Mazaira M, et al. Actinic cheilitis: evolution to squamous cell carcinoma after carbon dioxide laser vaporization. A study of 43 cases. *J Dermatolog Treat.* 2010; 21(1):49-53.
6. Conlon JD, Drolet BA. Skin lesions in the neonate. *Pediatr Clin North Am.* 2004; 51(4):863-888, vii-viii.
7. Conroy FJ, Kandamany N, Mahaffey PJ. Laser depilation and hygiene: preventing recurrent pilonidal sinus disease. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg.* 2008; 61(9):1069-1072.
8. El-Domyati M, Hosam W, Abdel-Azim E, et al. Microdermabrasion: a clinical, histometric, and histopathologic study. *J Cosmet Dermatol.* 2016; 15(4):503-513.
9. Faurschou A, Togsverd-Bo K, Zachariae C, Haedersdal M. Pulsed dye laser vs. intense pulsed light for port-wine stains: a randomized side-by-side trial with blinded response evaluation. *Br J Dermatol.* 2009; 160(2):359-364.
10. Garzon MC, Huang JT, Enjolras O, Frieden IJ. Vascular malformations. Part II: associated syndromes. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2007; 56(4):541-564.

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

11. Glick ZR, Frieden IJ, Garzon MC, et al. Diffuse neonatal hemangiomas: an evidence-based review of case reports in the literature. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2012; 67(5):898-903.
12. Gold MH, Nestor MS. Current treatments of actinic keratoses. *J Drugs Dermatol*. 2006; 5(2 Suppl):17-25.
13. Hagen SL, Grey KR, Korta DZ, Kelly KM. Quality of life in adults with facial port-wine stains. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2017; 76(4):695-702.
14. Hamilton FL, Car J, Lyons C, et al. Laser and other light therapies for the treatment of acne vulgaris: systematic review. *Br J Dermatol*. 2009; 160(6):1273-1285.
15. Harris AG, Naidoo C, Murrell DF. Skin needling as a treatment for acne scarring: An up-to-date review of the literature. *Int J Womens Dermatol*. 2015; 1(2):77-81.
16. Hartzell LD, Buckmiller LM. Current management of infantile hemangiomas and their common associated conditions. *Otolaryngol Clin North Am*. 2012; 45(3):545-556, vii.
17. Heidari Beigvand H, Razzaghi M, Rostami-Nejad M, et al. Assessment of laser effects on skin rejuvenation. *J Lasers Med Sci*. 2020; 11(2):212-219.
18. Huikeshoven M, Koster PH, de Borgie CA, et al. Redarkening of port-wine stains 10 years after pulsed-dye-laser treatment. *N Engl J Med*. 2007; 356(12):1235-1240.
19. Jasim ZF, Handley JM. Treatment of pulsed dye laser-resistant port wine stain birthmarks. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2007; 57(4):677-682.
20. Jeon H, Bernstein LJ, Belkin DA, et al. Pulsed dye laser treatment of port-wine stains in infancy without the need for general anesthesia. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2019; 155(4):435-441.
21. Jiang SB, Levine VJ, Nehal KS, et al. Er: YAG laser for the treatment of actinic keratoses. *Dermatol Surg*. 2000; 26(5):437-440.
22. Karimipour DJ, Karimipour G, Orringer JS. Microdermabrasion: an evidence-based review. *Plast Reconstr Surg*. 2010; 125(1):372-377.
23. Kravvas G, Al-Niaimi F. A systematic review of treatments for acne scarring. Part 1: Non-energy-based techniques. *Scars Burn Heal*. 2017; 3:2059513117695312.
24. Masnari O, Schiestl C, Rössler J, et al. Stigmatization predicts psychological adjustment and quality of life in children and adolescents with a facial difference. *J Pediatr Psychol*. 2013; 38(2):162-172.
25. McIntyre WJ, Downs MR, Bedwell SA. Treatment options for actinic keratoses. *Am Fam Physician*. 2007; 76(5):667-671.
26. Minkis K, Geronemus RG, Hale EK. Port wine stain progression: a potential consequence of delayed and inadequate treatment? *Lasers Surg Med*. 2009; 41(6):423-426.
27. Neuhaus IM, Zane LT, Tope WD. Comparative efficacy of nonpurpuragenic pulsed dye laser and intense pulsed light for erythematotelangiectatic rosacea. *Dermatol Surg*. 2009; 35(6):920-928.
28. Oram Y, Kahraman F, Karıncaoğlu Y, Koyuncu E. Evaluation of 60 patients with pilonidal sinus treated with laser epilation after surgery. *Dermatol Surg*. 2010; 36(1): 88-91.
29. Ormerod A, Rajpara S. Basal cell carcinoma. *Clin Evid (Online)*. 2008; pii: 1719.
30. Otle, CC, Roenigk, RK. Medium-depth chemical peeling. *Semin Cutan Med Surg*. 1996; 15(3):145-154.
31. Patel AM, Chou EL, Findeiss L, Kelly KM. The horizon for treating cutaneous vascular lesions. *Semin Cutan Med Surg*. 2012; 31(2):98-104.
32. Poliner A, Fernandez Faith E, Blieden L, et al. Port-wine birthmarks: Update on diagnosis, risk assessment for Sturge-Weber Syndrome, and management. *Pediatr Rev*. 2022; 43(9):507-516.
33. Quaedvlieg PJ, Tirsi E, Thissen MR, Krekels GA. Actinic keratosis: how to differentiate the good from the bad ones? *Eur J Dermatol*. 2006; 16(4):335-339.
34. Ramaut L, Hoeksema H, Pirayesh A, et al. Microneedling: Where do we stand now? A systematic review of the literature. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg*. 2018; 71(1):1-14.

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Medical Policy

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

35. Ren J, Tuan H, Huang C, et al. A proposed scoring system for facial port-wine stain evaluation: facial port-wine stain area and severity index. *J Cosmet Dermatol.* 2022; 21(7):2931-2938.
36. Sabeti S, Ball KL, Burkhart C, et al. Consensus statement for the management and treatment of port-wine birthmarks in Sturge-Weber Syndrome. *JAMA Dermatol.* 2021; 157(1):98-104.
37. Sami NA, Attia AT, Badawi AM. Phototherapy in the treatment of acne vulgaris. *J Drugs Dermatol.* 2008; 7(7):627-632.
38. Semkova K, Kazandjieva J, Kadurina M, Tsankov N. Hemangioma Activity and Severity Index (HASI), an instrument for evaluating infantile hemangioma: development and preliminary validation. *Int J Dermatol.* 2015; 54(4):494-498.
39. Stor MLE, Lokhorst MM, Horbach SER, et al. Appearance-related concerns and their impact on health-related quality of life in patients with peripheral vascular malformations. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg.* 2022; 75(11):4202-4211.
40. Tran JM, Kelly KM, Drolet BA, et al. Light-based treatment of pediatric port-wine birthmarks. *Pediatr Dermatol.* 2021; 38(2):351-358.
41. Tucci FM, De Vincentiis GC, Sitzia E, et al. Head and neck vascular anomalies in children. *Int J Pediatr Otorhinolaryngol.* 2009; 73 Suppl 1:S71-S76.
42. van Raath MI, Chohan S, Wolkerstorfer A, et al. Treatment outcome measurement instruments for port wine stains: a systematic review of their measurement properties. *Dermatology.* 2020; 1-17.
43. van Zuuren EJ, Gupta AK, Gover MD, et al. Systematic review of rosacea treatments. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2007; 56(1):107-115.
44. Yang MU, Yaroslavsky AN, Farinelli WA, et al. Long-pulsed neodymium: yttrium-aluminum-garnet laser treatment for port-wine stains. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2005; 52(3 Pt 1):480-490.

Government Agency, Medical Society, and Other Authoritative Publications:

1. Bickers DR, Lim HW, Margolis D, et al. American Academy of Dermatology Association; Society for Investigative Dermatology. The burden of skin diseases: 2004 joint project of the American Academy of Dermatology Association and the Society for Investigative Dermatology. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2006; 55(3):490-500.
2. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). National Coverage Determinations. Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/new-search/search.aspx>. Accessed on April 2, 2025.
 - Laser Procedures. NCD #140.5. Effective May 1, 1997.
 - Treatment of Actinic Keratosis (AKs). NCD #250.4. Effective November 26, 2001.
3. Darrow DH, Greene AK, Mancini AJ, Nopper AJ; Section on Dermatology, Section on Otolaryngology–Head And Neck Surgery, and Section on Plastic Surgery. Diagnosis and management of infantile hemangioma. *Pediatrics.* 2015; 136(4):e1060-e1104.
4. de Berker D, McGregor JM, Hughes BR. British Association of Dermatologists Therapy Guidelines and Audit Subcommittee. Guidelines for the management of actinic keratoses. *Br J Dermatol.* 2007; 156(2):222-230.
5. Faurschou A, Olesen AB, Leonardi-Bee J, et al. Lasers or light sources for treating port-wine stains. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2011;(11):CD007152.
6. Gallo RL, Granstein RD, Kang S, et al. Standard classification and pathophysiology of rosacea: the 2017 update by the National Rosacea Society Expert Committee. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2018; 78(1):148-155.
7. International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies (ISSVA). ISSVA. 2018. Available at: <https://www.issva.org/UserFiles/file/ISSVA-Classification-2018.pdf>. Accessed on April 4, 2025.

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

8. Khunger N, Mysore V, Savant S, et al. The IADVL Task Force. Standard guidelines of care for acne surgery. *Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol.* 2008; 74 Suppl:S28-S36.
9. Krowchuk DP, Frieden IJ, Mancini AJ, et al. Subcommittee on the management of infantile hemangiomas. clinical practice guideline for the management of infantile hemangiomas. *Pediatrics.* 2019; 143(1):e20183475.
10. Krupashankar DS. IADVL Dermatotomy Task Force. Standard guidelines of care: CO2 laser for removal of benign skin lesions and resurfacing. *Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol.* 2008; 74 Suppl:S61-S67.
11. Kunimoto K, Yamamoto Y, Jinnin M. ISSVA Classification of vascular anomalies and molecular biology. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2022; 23(4):2358.
12. National Comprehensive Cancer Network® NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology®. © 2025 National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. For additional information visit the NCCN website: <http://www.nccn.org/index.asp>. Accessed on April 2, 2025.
 - Basal Cell Skin Cancer V2.2025. Revised February 7, 2025.
 - Squamous Cell Skin Cancer V2.2025. Revised February 7, 2025.
13. Poulin Y, Lynde CW, Barber K, et al.; Canadian non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Guidelines Committee. Non-melanoma Skin Cancer in Canada Chapter 3: management of actinic keratoses. *J Cutan Med Surg.* 2015; 19(3):227-238.
14. Thiboutot D, Anderson R, Cook-Bolden F, et al. Standard management options for rosacea: the 2019 update by the National Rosacea Society Expert Committee. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2020; 82(6):1501-1510.
15. van Zuuren EJ, Graber MA, Hollis S, et al. Interventions for rosacea. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2005;(3): CD003262.
16. Verma N, Yumeen S, Raggio BS. Ablative laser resurfacing. 2023. In: *StatPearls [Internet].* Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2024.
17. Zalaudek I, Kreusch J, Giacomel J, et al. How to diagnose nonpigmented skin tumors: a review of vascular structures seen with dermoscopy: part II. Nonmelanocytic skin tumors. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* 2010; 63(3):377-386.

Websites for Additional Information

1. American Academy of Dermatology (AAD). Available at: <http://www.aad.org/>. Accessed on April 2, 2025.
2. American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS). Available at: <http://www.abfprs.org/>. Accessed on April 2, 2025.
3. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Infantile Hemangiomas: About Strawberry Baby Birthmarks. Updated on December 24, 2018. Available at: https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/bathing-skin-care/Pages/Infantile-Hemangiomas-Baby-Birthmarks.aspx?gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI4eGsqSphQMV72BHAR0-zQz-EAAYASAAEgKG2PD_BwE. Accessed on April 2, 2025.
4. American Cancer Society (ACS). Detailed guide. Skin cancer: basal and squamous cell. https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/skin-cancer.html?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Google+Grants+-+Cancer+Type+-+BMM&utm_term=skin%20cancer&gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIgdva66SphQMVW19HAR0UcgIH-EAAYASAAEgIfLvD_BwE. Accessed on April 2, 2025.
5. The Aesthetic Society. Available at: <http://surgery.org>. Accessed on April 5, 2025.

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member's contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

6. American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS). Skin Rejuvenation and Resurfacing. Available at: <https://www.plasticsurgery.org/cosmetic-procedures/skin-rejuvenation-and-resurfacing>. Accessed April 4, 2025.
7. The Vascular Birthmarks Foundation. Types of Birthmarks. Available at: <https://birthmark.org/types-of-birthmarks/>. Accessed on April 2, 2025.

Index

Candela Vbeam® PDL System
 Cynergy™ Multiplex Dual Vascular Laser Esteflash3 IPL System
 Hydrafacial
 Hydrodermabrasion
 Lumenis IPL and IPL/Nd:Yag Laser Systems
 Lumenis ResurEX
 Mediflash3 IPL System
 Microdermabrasion
 NannoLight IPL System
 Percutaneous Collagen Induction Therapy

The use of specific product names is illustrative only. It is not intended to be a recommendation of one product over another, and is not intended to represent a complete listing of all products available.

Document History

| Status | Date | Action |
|----------|------------|--|
| | 10/01/2025 | Updated Coding section with 10/01/2025 ICD-10-CM changes, added C50.A2 to end of range. |
| Reviewed | 05/08/2025 | Medical Policy & Technology Assessment Committee (MPTAC) review. Revised Description, Background, and References sections. |
| | 01/30/2025 | Updated Coding section to add ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes C4A.0-C4A.9 and C49.A9 to end of range. |
| Reviewed | 05/09/2024 | MPTAC review. Updated Background and References sections. |
| Revised | 05/11/2023 | MPTAC review. Updated term port wine stain to port wine birthmark. Updated Description, Background, Definitions and References sections. |
| Revised | 05/12/2022 | MPTAC review. Revised Hair Procedures position statement to remove reference to gender specific alopecia and to remove the hair removal example. Updated Description, Background, Definitions and References sections. |
| Revised | 05/13/2021 | MPTAC review. Removed term “physical” from the term “physical functional impairment” in chemical peels, cutaneous hemangioma, port wine stain, and other vascular lesions, dermabrasion, hair procedures, laser and surgical treatment of rosacea and telangiectasia position statements. Updated Background, Definitions and References sections. |
| | 04/07/2021 | Revised Medically Necessary definition text in the Description section. |

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member’s contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

| | | |
|----------|------------|--|
| Revised | 05/14/2020 | MPTAC review. Information related to dermal fillers and collagen injections removed from this document and now addressed in MED.00132 Adipose-derived Regenerative Cell Therapy and Soft Tissue Augmentation Procedures. Updated Position Statement, Background/Overview, Definitions, References and Websites and History sections. Updated Coding section; removed codes 11950, 11951, 11952, 11954, G0429, Q2026, Q2028. |
| Reviewed | 06/06/2019 | MPTAC review. Updated Background, References and Websites sections. |
| Revised | 07/26/2018 | MPTAC review. Added microneedling as a cosmetic and not medically necessary indication. Updated Background, References and Websites sections. |
| | 12/27/2018 | The document header wording updated from “Current Effective Date” to “Publish Date.” Updated Coding section with 01/01/2018 CPT descriptor revision for 36468. |
| Reviewed | 08/03/2017 | MPTAC review. Updated Coding, References, Websites and Index sections. |
| | 01/01/2017 | Updated Coding section to remove HCPCS code C9800 deleted 12/31/2016. |
| Reviewed | 08/04/2016 | MPTAC review. Updated Background, References, and Websites sections. Removed CPT code 36469 deleted 12/31/2014 and ICD-9 codes from Coding section. |
| Revised | 08/06/2015 | MPTAC review. Minor format changes to Position Statements without revision to criteria. Updated Description, Rationale, Background, References, and Websites sections. |
| Reviewed | 08/14/2014 | MPTAC review. Minor format changes to Position Statements without revision to criteria. Other format changes and updates to Description, Rationale, Background, References, and Websites for Additional Information sections. |
| | 01/01/2014 | Updated Coding section with 01/01/2014 HCPCS changes; removed Q2027 deleted 12/31/2013. |
| Reviewed | 08/08/2013 | MPTAC review. Updated Background, Coding, References, Websites for Additional Information, and Index sections. |
| Revised | 08/09/2012 | MPTAC review. Clarified medically necessary and cosmetic and not medically necessary statements: D. Laser and Surgical Treatment of Rosacea and Telangiectasia; added reconstructive statement: E. Tattoos (Application); added medically necessary statement, revised reconstructive and cosmetic and not medically necessary statement: G. Cutaneous Hemangioma, Port Wine Stain, and other Vascular Lesions; added medically necessary statement and combined and revised cosmetic and not medically necessary statement: H. Hair Procedures; and, clarified cosmetic and not medically necessary statement: I. Other Cosmetic Skin Procedures. Updated Background, Coding, Definitions, References, Websites for Additional Information and Index. |
| Revised | 02/16/2012 | MPTAC review. Clarified Position Statements for specific indications and removed section: Treatment of Keloids and Scar Revisions and related codes from the Coding section. Added Cosmetic and Not Medically Necessary statement to sections: F. Injection of Dermal Fillers and G. Port Wine Stain. Updated Description, Background, Definitions, Index, and References. |
| | 10/01/2011 | Updated Coding section with 10/01/2011 ICD-9 changes. |
| Reviewed | 02/17/2011 | MPTAC review. Updated and reformatted Background, Definitions, Coding, References and Websites for Additional Information. |
| | 10/01/2010 | Updated Coding section with 10/01/2010 HCPCS changes; removed HCPCS S0196 deleted 09/30/2010. |
| | 07/01/2010 | Updated Coding section with 07/01/2010 HCPCS changes. |

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member’s contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.

Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

| | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| Revised | 02/25/2010 | MPTAC review. Clarified Position Statements. Revised medically necessary statement for Dermabrasion, removing criteria for 10 lesions and treatment failure. Removed rhinophyma statement from Laser and Surgical Treatment of Acne Rosacea. Updated Description, Background, Coding, References, and Index. |
| | 01/01/2010 | Updated Coding section with 01/01/2010 CPT changes; removed CPT 14300, deleted 12/31/2009. |
| Revised | 02/26/2009 | MPTAC review. Removed cryotherapy and chemical exfoliation for acne from the medically necessary statement. Updated Discussion and References. Updated Coding section; removed CPT 17340, 17360. |
| Reviewed | 11/20/2008 | MPTAC review. References and Background updated. |
| | 10/01/2008 | Updated Coding section with 10/01/2008 ICD-9 changes. |
| | 04/01/2008 | A NOTE was added after the Reconstructive definition to clarify that not all benefit contracts include a reconstructive services benefit. |
| Revised | 11/29/2007 | MPTAC review. Clarified/reformatted Description section and Position Statements for Chemical Peels and Cryotherapy, Laser and Surgical Treatment of Acne Rosacea and Other Cosmetic Skin Procedures. Addition of cosmetic and not medically necessary statement to Tattoos section. Revision of Position Statement section from: Injection of Poly-L-Lactic Acid to Injection of Dermal Fillers; addition of Radiesse, an FDA-approved dermal filler for lipodystrophy. Updated Rationale, Background, Definitions, Coding, References and Index. The phrase “cosmetic/not medically necessary” was clarified to read “cosmetic and not medically necessary.” |
| Reviewed | 12/07/2006 | MPTAC review. References updated. Coding updated; removed CPT 15810, 15811 deleted 12/31/2005. |
| Revised | 12/01/2005 | MPTAC revised. Revision based on Pre-merger Anthem and Pre-merger WellPoint Harmonization. |
| | 11/22/2005 | Added reference for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) – National Coverage Determination (NCD). |
| Reviewed | 09/22/2005 | MPTAC review. Revision based on Pre-merger Anthem and Pre-merger WellPoint Harmonization. |

| Pre-Merger Organizations | Last Review Date | Document Number | Title |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Anthem, Inc. | 01/13/05 | ANC.00007 | Cosmetic & Reconstructive Services: Skin Related |
| Anthem Virginia | 06/28/02 | VA Memo 1108 | Radiation Treatment of Keloids |
| WellPoint Health Networks, Inc. | 06/24/04 | 2.02.02 | Chemical Peels |
| | 09/23/04 | 09.03.01 | Treatment of Alopecia |
| | 09/23/04 | Definitions iii | Definition: Cosmetic vs. Reconstructive Services |
| | 12/2/04 | | Clinical Document: Management of Rosacea |

Federal and State law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining eligibility for coverage. The member’s contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Medical Policy, which addresses medical efficacy, should be considered before utilizing medical opinion in adjudication. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without permission from the health plan.