POLICY STATEMENT:

Based upon the literature and available information, gender specific services that are otherwise medically necessary are also considered **medically necessary** for transgender individuals appropriate to their anatomy. Examples include (but are not limited to):

I. Breast cancer screening for female to male transgender persons who have not undergone a mastectomy;

II. Cervical cancer screening for female to male transgender persons who have not undergone gender reassignment surgery; or

III. Prostate cancer screening or treatment of a prostate pathology for male to female transgender persons who have retained their prostate.

Please refer to the applicable medical necessity criteria (e.g., Corporate Medical Policy, InterQual, Evicore, etc.) for determining when a particular service is medically necessary.

DESCRIPTION:

Transgender refers to a person who experiences incongruence between their biological sex and gender identity. Men and women can be transgender. The individual who is genetically male but who feels that the male gender does not describe him completely or accurately, and/or who desires or has undergone a male to female conversion is known as a transwoman; and the individual who is genetically female who feels that the female gender does not describe her completely or accurately, and/or who desires or has undergone the female to male conversion is known as a transman.

There are many options for gender identity and expression. Not all transgender individuals feel the necessity to undergo complete genital reconstruction surgery. For example, many choose only hormonal therapy or non-genital surgical procedures or may instead adopt the gestures, clothing, voices and roles of the gender they identify with.

RATIONALE:

A diagnosis of gender dysphoria is based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) V criteria which include: there must be evidence of a strong and persistent cross-gender identification; this cross-over identification must not merely be a desire for any perceived cultural advantages of being the other sex; there must also be evidence of persistent discomfort about one’s assigned sex or sense of inappropriateness in the gender role of that sex; the individual must not have a concurrent physical intersex condition (e.g., androgen insensitivity syndrome, congenital adrenal hyperplasia); and there must be evidence of clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health or WPATH (formerly known as the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association) Standards of Care (SOC) for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Nonconforming People and the DSM V criteria are widely accepted as definitive documents in the area of gender dysphoria treatment.
Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member’s subscriber contract.

CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.

Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

Code Key: Experimental/Investigational = (E/I), Not medically necessary/ appropriate = (NMN).

MODIFIERS:
KX
Requirements specified in the medical policy have been met; for use by physicians and non-physician practitioners

CONDITION CODE:
45
Ambiguous gender category; for use by institutional providers

CPT:
Multiple codes

HCPCS:
Multiple codes

ICD9:
302.50-302.53 Trans-sexualism
302.85 Gender identity disorder in adolescents or adults

ICD10:
F64.1 Gender identity disorder in adolescence and adulthood
Z87.890 Personal history of sex reassignment

REFERENCES:


* key article

KEY WORDS:
Gender dysphoria, Gender identity disorder, GID, transgender, transsexualism
CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

Per CMS Manual, Pub 100-03, Medicare National Coverage Determinations, Transmittal 169, change request 8825 was issued. As a consequence of this decision, NCD 140.3 is no longer valid. Implementation of this policy shall be June 29, 2014. Because the NCD is no longer valid as of the effective date, its provisions are no longer a basis for denying claims for Medicare coverage of “transsexual surgery” under 42 CFR §405.1060. Moreover, any local coverage determinations used to adjudicate such claims may not be based on or rely on the provisions or reasoning from section 140.3 of Pub. 100-03, Medicare NCD Manual. In the absence of an NCD, contractors and adjudicators should consider whether any Medicare claims for these services are reasonable and necessary under §1862(a)(1)(A) of the SSA consistent with the existing guidance for making such decisions when there is no NCD. This transmittal is located at:

CMS has also recently posted a final decision memo regarding for Gender Dysphoria and Gender Reassignment Surgery (CAG-00446N) located at: