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## External Breast Prostheses & Prosthetic Brassiere

### 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 prefabricated 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.

**Attachments:** None

### History:

Author/Reviewer: Sheldon Haas, MD; Date: June 2007

Committee Review: UM: August 09, 2007; QAC: August 28, 2007

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Reviewed/Revised: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: Nov 11, 2011  
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Reviewed/No Updates: Catherine Sanders, MD  
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**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



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