

Gender Affirming Procedures and Treatment Medical Policy

Effective Date: July 1, 2022

Health Plans Affected: Johns Hopkins Employer Health Programs (EHP)

Type of Change: Benefit

Explanation of Change:

Johns Hopkins HealthCare (JHHC) has released its medical policy on gender affirming procedures and treatment for EHP members ages 18 and older* effective July 1, 2022.

- **CMS24.08:** When benefits are provided under the EHP member's contract, JHHC will authorize gender affirmation treatment and procedures when the diagnostic criteria for Gender Dysphoria AND the provider qualifications AND the specific criteria for the requested treatments or procedures have been met.
 - Refer to Policy Section III for benefit coverage information, including age requirements or limitations, and plan specific pharmacy formularies.
 - When a systemic complication such as sepsis, infection, hemorrhage or other serious documented medical complication occurs as a result of any surgical procedure, treatment of the complication is considered medically necessary.
 - Revision surgery may be considered medically necessary to approximate functional anatomy.
 - Medically reasonable adjunctive procedures performed to enhance the ability of a member to live aligned with their gender identity will be considered for coverage as defined in the treating provider's treatment plan established in conjunction with the member to relieve gender incongruence.

Note: Particular consideration will be given to whether the proposed procedure(s) advances an individual's ability to properly present and function in the identified gender role, including non-binary role.

View the [Medical Policy Update](#)

To view the full descriptions of this policy, please visit the [Medical Policies](#) section of the JHHC website on or after the effective date or call Provider Relations at 888-895-4998.

Prior Authorization Process

Submit EHP prior authorization requests to the JHHC Utilization Management (UM) department at 800-261-2421 or 410-424-4480.

*This policy does not pertain to Broadway Services EHP members.