

mcp newsletter

October 19, 2022

22-15

**TO: PHYSICIANS COMPLETING TRANSITION-RELATED SURGERY (TRS)
REQUESTS FOR PRIOR APPROVAL AND TRS SURGICAL READINESS
ASSESSORS**

RE: ACCESS TO INSURED TRANSITION-RELATED CHEST/BREAST SURGERIES

Please be advised that the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS) has made the following changes in order to facilitate access to insured transition-related chest/breast surgeries:

- 1) Patients with prior approval for TRS mastectomy/chest masculinization from Medical Services dated six months or more are eligible for payment of the approved eligible services from our public insurance plans in accredited private clinics in the Maritimes, Ontario, and Quebec until capacity within Newfoundland and Labrador is established.**

Physicians are encouraged to forward the following information regarding patients who have waited for mastectomy/chest masculinization six months or more after dated prior approval from HCS and who are also interested in pursuing the procedure in a private clinic. Ideally, this information should be captured in a spreadsheet including the patients' name, MCP number, proposed private facility (and surgeon, if possible) for which approval is requested. This should be submitted on a biweekly or monthly basis to Medical Services at VictoriaPenney@gov.nl.ca. Physicians are reminded to use secure transmission of documents to protect patient privacy and confidentiality. Please contact Ms. Penney if there are any questions regarding submission of these documents.

Upon receipt of this documentation, Medical Services will prepare a new letter of approval for each patient indicating HCS' support of payment of the TRS mastectomy/chest masculinization in the specified accredited private clinic within the Maritimes, Ontario, or Quebec in addition to those services previously approved at a Canadian hospital site. The new letter of approval is then sent to the referring physician, as well as officials at MCP, the Hospital Insurance Plan, and the Medical Transportation Assistance Program to indicate HCS' financial support of the procedure. This letter of approval can be used by the accepting facility to bill NL's public insurance plans directly.

- 2) Patients with prior approval for TRS mastectomy/chest masculinization from Medical Services who have paid out-of-pocket for these services six months or later following the date of initial approval from HCS in an accredited private clinic in the Maritimes, Ontario, and Quebec are eligible for reimbursement of eligible approved services.**

Patients with TRS prior approval for mastectomy/chest masculinization dated six months or more who have paid for these surgeries in accredited private clinics in the above jurisdictions should complete the following Out-of-Province Claim form for reimbursement of costs: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/files/mcp-forms-out-of-province-claim.pdf>. Patients should clearly indicate on the form that the costs incurred were related to TRS mastectomy/chest masculinization. Information on financial supports for required travel and accommodations is available at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/hcs/mcp/travelassistance/>.

- 3) The length of hormone therapy has decreased from eighteen to twelve continuous months to meet insurability criteria for TRS breast augmentation.**

Questions relating to the content of this Newsletter should be directed to Dr. Colleen Crowther, Assistant Medical Director at (709) 758-1557 or by email at colleencrowther@gov.nl.ca
