

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 17.23
TITLE: WIGS OR HAIRPIECE

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: Defense Appropriation Act for 1981 (Public Law 96- 7)
32 CFR 199.4(g)(41)

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: Chapter 8, Section 12.1

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

December 15, 1980

II. DESCRIPTION

The Defense Appropriation Act for fiscal year 1982 and the Continuing Resolution for fiscal year 1983 authorize coverage of a wig or hairpiece when hair loss occurs as a result of treatment of a malignant disease.

III. POLICY

A. CHAMPVA will provide coverage for one wig or hairpiece for a beneficiary who has experienced hair loss as a result of the treatment of a malignant disease.

B. Only one wig or hairpiece will be covered in the beneficiary's lifetime. This will be provided only if the beneficiary has not previously received a wig or hairpiece through the United States Government (for example, a Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center).

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Claims documentation. Claims must be supported by the following documentation:

1. a statement for the attending physician certifying that alopecia has resulted from treatment of a malignant disease; and
2. a statement from the beneficiary (or sponsor) certifying that a wig or hairpiece has not previously been obtained through the United States Government.

B. Allowable Charge. Effective January 17, 1992 the determined lifetime allowable charge may not exceed \$750 per wig or hairpiece. For services received prior to January 17, 1992 the determined lifetime allowable charge limit was \$250. If the wig or hairpiece purchased by the beneficiary exceeds the maximum amount, CHAMPVA can only cost-share up to the allowable amount.

V. EXCLUSIONS

The following are excluded from coverage:

1. Alopecia resulting from conditions other than treatment of malignant disease.
2. Maintenance, wig or hairpiece supplies, or replacement of the wig or hairpiece.
3. Hair transplants or any other surgical procedure involving the attachment of hair or a wig hairpiece to the scalp.
4. Any diagnostic or therapeutic method or supply intended to encourage hair regrowth.

END OF POLICY