

## CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

**CHAPTER:** 2  
**SECTION:** 19.4  
**TITLE:** PECTUS EXCAVATUM

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

**RELATED AUTHORITY:** 32 CFR 199.4(e)(8)(i)(A) and (ii)(C)

**TRICARE POLICY MANUAL:** Chapter 3, Section 3.7

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### I. EFFECTIVE DATE

December 29, 1982

### II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

21740, 21899

### III. DESCRIPTION

Pectus excavatum is an undue depression of the sternum called "hollowed breast," funnel breast or funnel chest. It is a congenital skeletal defect in which the sternum is depressed into the thoracic cavity by abnormal partial developmental dislocation of the joints between the ribs and the sternum.

### IV. POLICY

Surgery to correct the skeletal defect can be covered as correction of a congenital anomaly when the defect is more than a minor anatomical anomaly. Documentation of the degree or severity of the skeletal defect is required.

### V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. The degree of skeletal deformity in pectus excavatum can be documented by photographs, radiographs, cardiac and pulmonary function tests, or a narrative description by a physician.

B. Any case in which there is a question on the severity of the skeletal defect shall be referred for medical review.

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## VI. EXCEPTIONS

Breast augmentation due to the congenital absence of the pectoralis major and minor muscles is not covered.

**\*END OF POLICY\***