

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 2.2
TITLE: BREAST RECONSTRUCTION AS RESULT OF A CONGENITAL ANOMALY

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(2) and (e)(8)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

April 16, 1986

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

19361-19369, 19499

III. DESCRIPTION

A congenital anomaly is a significant deviation from the normal form, existing at, and usually before birth. It also refers to certain malformations or diseases which may be either hereditary or due to some influence occurring during gestation.

IV. POLICY

Breast reconstructive surgery, to include surgery performed to establish symmetry, is covered to correct breast deformities related to a verified congenital anomaly. The following are examples of congenital anomalies that require breast reconstruction:

1. Amastia (absence of the breast); athelia (absence of nipple); polymastia (supernumerary breasts); polythelia (supernumerary nipples); tubular breast deformity.
2. Congenital hypoplasia of one breast and gigantomasita of the contralateral breast with ptosis.
3. Paucity of breast tissue due to chest wall deformities.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. A congenital anomaly may be present at birth, but only manifest later; e.g., at puberty. In these cases, documentation (i.e., photographs and physical examination) to verify the anomaly may be required.

B. For cosmetic, reconstructive, and plastic surgery guidelines related to congenital anomalies see [Chapter 2, Section 27.4](#), *Cosmetic, Reconstructive And Plastic Surgery - General Guidelines*.

C. Augmentation and/or reduction of the collateral breast to correct congenital asymmetry when related to congenital anomaly is covered and is not subject to the exclusion for reduction mammoplasty performed primarily for reasons of cosmetic surgery. See [Chapter 2, Section 2.5](#), *Reduction Mammoplasty For Macromastia*, which describes circumstances under which reduction mammoplasty procedures may be medically indicated.

VI. EXCLUSIONS

A. Reconstructive breast surgery for incomplete or under developed breast(s) not related to a verified congenital anomaly.

- B. Reduction mammoplasty to treat fibrocystic disease of the breast.
- C. Reduction mammoplasty performed solely for cosmetic purposes.
- D. Mastopexy surgery (resuspending breast) and breast ptosis (drooping breast).

END OF POLICY