

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 2.6
TITLE: SILICONE OR SALINE BREAST IMPLANT REMOVAL

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(a)(1), (e)(8)(iv), and (e)(9)

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

June 30, 1993

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

19328 and 19330

III. DESCRIPTION

The removal of silicone or saline mammary implant material.

IV. POLICY

Removal of silicone or saline breast implants is covered when one of the following is documented or medical review has confirmed the medical necessity:

1. The initial silicone or saline breast implantation was or would have been a covered benefit, (see [Chapter 2, Section 2.2, Breast Construction as a Result of a Congenital Anomaly](#)) and the removal of silicone or saline breast implants are considered medically necessary, medical documentation of signs or symptoms of complications may include **but are not limited to:**

a. **signs and symptoms that may signal** implant rupture (leakage or deflation) of the silicone or saline materials, or

b. capsular formation and contracture (e.g., the tissue around a breast implant hardens, which can cause pain, and sometimes a need for further surgery), these indications may be manifested by changes in firmness, size, shape, or color of the implanted breast, or

c. **infection and/or cellulitis.**

2. If the initial silicone or saline breast implant surgery was not originally covered, **the implant removal is covered only** when medically necessary to treat a complication in another body part that is a separate medical condition and is unresponsive to medical management, **such as systemic sepsis**.

V. EXCLUSIONS

A. **Removal of silicone or saline breast implants for the presence of autoimmune or connective tissue disorders.**

B. **In the case of** implants not originally covered or coverable, any implant damage, hardening, leakage, and autoimmune disorder (**e.g., lupus**), do not qualify as a separate medical conditions. They are considered unfortunate sequelae resulting from the initial non-covered surgery.

END OF POLICY