



Ordering External Breast Prostheses & Supplies



What's Changed?

Note: No substantive content updates.

Coverage

At the time of a mastectomy and after, we cover a patient's reasonable and necessary external breast prostheses and supplies. The ordering practitioner must submit a standard written order (SWO) that documents medical necessity for new items and replacements.

Eligible HCPCS Codes

- **L8000** — Breast prosthesis, mastectomy bra, without integrated breast prosthesis form, any size, any type
- **L8001** — Breast prosthesis, mastectomy bra, with integrated breast prosthesis form, unilateral, any size, any type
- **L8002** — Breast prosthesis, mastectomy bra, with integrated breast prosthesis form, bilateral, any size, any type
- **L8015** — External breast prosthesis garment, with mastectomy form, post mastectomy
- **L8020** — Breast prosthesis, mastectomy form
- **L8030** — Breast prosthesis, silicone or equal, without integral adhesive

Use code A4280 when billing for an adhesive skin support that attaches an external breast prosthesis directly to the chest wall.

Tip: We deny L8031 and L8035 as not reasonable and necessary, and we deny L8010, a mastectomy sleeve, because it doesn't meet the definition of a prosthesis.

[Local Coverage Determination \(LCD\): External Breast Prostheses \(L33317\)](#) and [Article: External Breast Prostheses \(A52478\)](#) have more coverage information. Find your [MAC's website](#) for more information.

Practitioners: What You Need to Do

Send a standard written order

The prescribing practitioner must submit a signed SWO to the supplier before delivering the prosthesis or submitting a claim. We allow verbal orders when they're followed by a written SWO.

The patient's medical record should show:

- A past mastectomy or breast absence supporting medical necessity
- A prosthesis or related item's diagnosis code; original surgical documentation isn't necessary

The SWO must include:

- The patient's name or MBI
- A general description of the item, like brand name or model number, HCPCS code, or HCPCS code narrative
- The quantity dispensed (how many bras or prostheses)
- The order date
- Your name or NPI
- Your signature

Tip: The treating practitioner should make medical record documentation available to the supplier or MAC upon request. You can support the diagnoses related to the patient's need for the prostheses-related items with:

- Treating practitioner records
- Hospital records
- Nursing home records
- Home health agency records
- Records from other health care professionals
- Test reports in the patient's medical record

[Article A52478](#) has the applicable ICD-10 codes.

Supplier Replacements

We don't cover replacing an item before its useful lifetime because of ordinary wear and tear.

Reasonable Useful Lifetime (RUL) & Replacement Expectancy

- Silicone breast prostheses (L8030) = 2 years
- Nipple prostheses (L8032, L8033) = 3 months
- Fabric, foam, or fiber filled breast prostheses (L8001, L8002, L8015) = 6 months
- We replace the **same type** of external breast prosthesis if it's lost or damaged beyond repair (this doesn't include ordinary wear and tear)
- We cover a **different type** of external breast prosthesis if the patient's medical condition changes, requiring a new SWO
- 1 external breast prosthesis per side for the prosthesis's useful lifetime

- 2 external prostheses, 1 per side, for patients who've had bilateral mastectomies
- We deny more than 1 external prosthesis per side as not reasonable and necessary

Tip: Suppliers should use appropriate anatomic modifiers when submitting a claim.

Supplier Records

Suppliers must keep proof of delivery, if requested, and documentation in their files for 7 years from the service date.

Resources

- [How to Use the Medicare Coverage Database](#)
- [Article: Standard Documentation Requirements for All Claims Submitted to DME MACs \(A55426\)](#)
- [Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15](#)
- [Medicare Coverage Database](#)

The Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) and the Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) Part A and Part B (A/B) Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Outreach & Education Task Force developed this content together to provide nationally consistent education to health care providers.

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