

RMHP Surgical Repair of the External Ear

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Clinical Indications for Procedure

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- For **ALL Plans**, surgical repair of the external ear is needed for appropriate care of the Member because of **1 or more** of the following
 - The Member's injury is due to acute trauma, with or without the presence of an earring. Repair may be delayed up to six weeks to reduce the risk of infection.
 - The Member's injury is due to acute trauma and tearing of the ear or earlobe was caused by an earring, post, or other device being pulled from the ear. Coverage will be provided for repair of the acute laceration. Repair may be delayed up to six weeks to reduce the risk of infection.

Evidence Summary

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- If the above guidelines are not met, the request will be reviewed by a RMHP physician
- No conservative or alternate treatment required prior to procedure
- Conditions under which this procedure is considered **NOT** medically necessary are **ALL** of the following
 - Earlobe repair to close a stretched pierce hole
 - Repair of earlobe deformity and other abnormalities of external ear related to ear piercing and the complications of ear piercing are considered to be cosmetic surgery and therefore not a benefit according to the contract
 - After the plastic repair of the earlobe or ear deformities alleged to be present prior to trauma will be considered to be cosmetic in nature and therefore not a benefit
 - Repair of chronic trauma when there is tearing of the ear or earlobe caused by earring, post, or other device

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The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery (L35090), original effective date 10/1/2015, revision effective date 7/11/2021, reviewed 10/10/2023.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Local Coverage Article (LCA) Billing and Coding: Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery (A56587), original effective date 5/30/2019, revision effective date 7/11/2021, reviewed 10/10/2023.

Documentation Required

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Physician notes and photographs

Policy History

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History Summary: Policy originated 10/18/2007 with annual reviews, updates, and committee hierarchy approval through 12/29/2022. See archive copies for details. Annual review 10/10/2023.

Codes

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