

## Medical Coverage Policy | Rhinoplasty with Nasal Reconstruction



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 08/01/2006  
**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 09/17/2013

### OVERVIEW

The policy documents coverage criteria for rhinoplasty with reconstructive surgery when the surgery is performed to restore nasal respiratory function.

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization is required for BlueCHiP for Medicare and recommended for Commercial products.

### POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products

Rhinoplasty with nasal reconstruction is covered for one of the medical conditions listed in the medical criteria.

Nasal surgery (Rhinoplasty only) is considered cosmetic in nature and non-covered as contract exclusion when performed solely to improve the patient's appearance in the absence of any signs and/or symptoms of functional abnormalities.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Rhinoplasty with Nasal Reconstruction is covered for one of the following conditions:

- Significant symptomatic airway compromise, sleep apnea, or recurrent or chronic rhinosinusitis when not responsive to appropriate medical management directly caused by a deformity (congenital or acquired) of the bony nasal pyramid (nasal bones and nasal process of the maxilla); or
- Reconstruction following removal of a nasal malignancy, an abscess or osteomyelitis that has caused severe deformity and breathing difficulty, or
- Severe deformity caused by specifically documented trauma with breathing difficulty; or
- Chronic rhinosinusitis not responding to medical therapy related to a trauma related nasal airway obstruction.

### BACKGROUND

Nasal surgery is defined as any procedure performed on the external or internal structures of the nose, septum, or turbinate. This surgery may be performed to improve abnormal function, reconstruct congenital or acquired deformities, or to enhance appearance. It generally involves rearrangement or excision of the supporting bony and cartilaginous structures, and incision or excision of the overlying skin of the nose. Nasal surgery, including rhinoplasty, may be reconstructive or cosmetic in nature. Current coding does not allow distinction of cosmetic or reconstructive procedures by specific codes; in all cases, therefore, categorization of each procedure is to be distinguished by the presence or absence of specific signs and/or symptoms.

Cosmetic

Nasal surgery is considered cosmetic in nature and non-covered when performed solely to improve the patient's appearance in the absence of any signs and/or symptoms of functional abnormalities.

Reconstructive

Nasal surgery, including rhinoplasty, is considered reconstructive in nature when performed to:

- improve nasal respiratory function (relieve airway obstruction or stricture, synechia formation);
- repair defects caused by trauma (septal deviation, intranasal cicatrix, dislocated nasal bone fractures, turbinate hypertrophy);
- treat congenital anatomic abnormalities when there are signs and/or symptoms of functional abnormalities (cleft lip nasal deformities, choanal atresia, oronasal or oromaxillary fistula);
- replace nasal tissue lost after tumor ablative surgery when there are signs and/or symptoms of functional abnormalities.

### COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement for applicable surgery coverage.

### CODING

The following rhinoplasty CPT codes require a medical necessity review BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products:

30410

30420

30435

30450

30460

30462

The following rhinoplasty CPT codes are considered cosmetic and are non-covered for BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial products:

30400

30430

### RELATED POLICIES

Cosmetic Services

Orthognathic Surgery

### PUBLISHED

Provider Update Dec 2013

Provider Update Jul 2012

Provider Update Sep 2011

Provider Update Nov 2010

Provider Update Oct 2009

Policy Update Dec 2007

Policy Update Aug 2006

### REFERENCES

Cosmetic Nose Surgery. Medline Plus: Medical Encyclopedia. US National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIH website:

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/002983.htm>.

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