

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA) requires group health plans to make certain benefits available to participants who have undergone a mastectomy. In particular, a plan must offer mastectomy patients benefits for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Protheses; and
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema.

Our plan complies with these requirements. Benefits for these items generally are comparable to those provided under our plan for similar types of medical services and supplies. Of course, the extent to which any of these items is appropriate following mastectomy is a matter to be determined by consultation between the attending physician and the patient. Our plan neither imposes penalties (for example, reducing or limiting reimbursements) nor provides incentives to induce attending providers to provide care inconsistent with these requirements. If you would like more information about WHCRA required coverage, you can contact the Benefits Department at 615-296-3000.