

Medical Policy



Hair Prosthesis (Wig/Hair Piece)

▼ Description

A hair prosthesis (wig) is a hair system designed for those suffering from hair loss due to medical conditions. A prosthesis contains a combination of fabrics and compounds that are used to re-create natural hair growth patterns and the look of the scalp. All materials in the prosthesis are treated to resist dirt, oils and body acids while providing maximum comfort.

▼ Policy

For Medicare Members

A hair prosthesis (wig or hair piece) is not covered under Medicare guidelines.

For Non-Medicare Members

A hair prosthesis (wig or hair piece) is considered reasonable and necessary for hair loss due to a medical condition or the treatment of a medical condition.

▼ Policy Guidelines

Coverage Criteria:

1. Must be ordered by the treating physician.
2. Wigs and appropriate related supplies (stand and tape) may be covered for Members meeting the following criteria:
 - a. Hair loss must be due to the effects of chemotherapy or radiation treatment; or
 - b. Treatment for any form of cancer or leukemia; or
 - c. Alopecia areata, alopecia totalis, alopecia Medicamentosa; or
 - d. Permanent loss of scalp hair due to injury such as from burns or traumatic injury; or
 - e. Permanent loss of scalp hair due to an underlying skin condition resulting from infection or inflammation of the hair follicles that is characterized by extensive follicular destruction and is unresponsive to treatment; or
 - f. Congenital baldness; or
 - g. Autoimmune diseases causing permanent hair loss.

▼HCPCS Level II Codes and Description

A9282 Wig, any type, each

▼Important Note:

Northwood's Medical Policies are developed to assist Northwood in administering plan benefits and determining whether a particular DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary. Equipment that is used primarily and customarily for a non-medical purpose is not considered durable medical equipment.

Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and are subject to all of the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the member's contract including medical necessity requirements.

The conclusion that a DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary does not constitute coverage. The member's contract defines which DMEPOS product or service is covered, excluded or limited. The policies provide for clearly written, reasonable and current criteria that have been approved by Northwood's Medical Director.

The clinical criteria and medical policies provide guidelines for determining the medical necessity for specific DMEPOS products or services. In all cases, final benefit determinations are based on the applicable contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between medical policy guidelines and applicable contract language, the contract language prevails. Medical policy is not intended to override the policy that defines the member's benefits, nor is it intended to dictate to providers how to direct care. Northwood Medical policies shall not be interpreted to limit the benefits afforded to Medicare or Medicaid members by law and regulation and Northwood will use the applicable state requirements to determine required quantity limit guidelines.

Northwood's policies do not constitute medical advice. Northwood does not provide or recommend treatment to members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

▼Cross Reference to Related Policies and Procedures

1. Vandegrift, K V.: The development of an oncology alopecia wig program. J Intraven Nurs Mar-Apr;17(2):78-82, 1994

Applicable URAC Standard

Core 8	Staff operational tools and support
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Change/Authorization History

Revision Number	Date	Description of Change	Prepared/Reviewed by	Approved by	Review Date:
A	Nov.2006	Initial Release	Rosanne Brugnoli	Ken Fasse	n/a
01		Annual Review	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2008
02	12-22-09	Annual Review/ no changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2009
03	12-01-10	Annual Review – No changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2010
04	07-20-11	Added Important Note to all Medical Policies	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	
05	12-13-11	Annual Review. Added References to Policy	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Dec. 2011
06	04-03-12	Added reference to NH Medicaid	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	
07	08-15-12	Changed to reflect treating physician to order vs. attending oncologist. Added autoimmune, congenital baldness to covered diagnoses.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	August 2012
08	11-29-12	Annual review. No changes.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Nov. 2012
09	12-18-13	Annual Review No changes.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	
10	11-24-14	Annual Review. No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	
11	11-16-15	Annual Review. Added information regarding Medicare vs. Non-Medicare members.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. B. Almasri	November 2015
12	11-17-16	Annual Review. No Changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. B. Almasri	November 2016

13	11-14-17	Annual review. No changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	November 2017
14	11-14-18	Annual Review. No Changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. C. Lerchin	November 2018