



# Elective Cosmetic Surgery Patient Information

Elective cosmetic procedures are not a TRICARE covered benefit. However, a limited number of cosmetic surgery cases are permitted in Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) to support graduate medical education training, skill maintenance, certification, and recertification for qualified specialists.

## Eligibility

- Elective cosmetic procedures are restricted to TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries, including TRICARE for Life participants, who will not lose TRICARE eligibility for at least 6 months.
- Active Duty personnel must have written permission from their unit commander before undergoing an elective cosmetic surgery procedure.

- Elective cosmetic procedures are performed on a "space-available" basis only. Elective cosmetic surgery cases will not be performed if they would cause other medically necessary and/or reconstructive surgery cases to be cancelled or rescheduled.
- Follow-up care after an elective cosmetic procedure is not guaranteed in an MTF because the care required may exceed the ability of the facility and/or there may not be appointments available.

## Payment

- All patients, including active duty personnel, must pay estimated costs for all elective cosmetic procedures before surgery is scheduled.

- The cost of elective cosmetic procedures includes applicable professional, facility, and anesthesia fees plus the costs of any implants, pharmaceuticals, and other separately billable items.
- Rates cannot be guaranteed until estimated charges have been paid in full.
- Even if you have other health insurance (OHI), you are responsible for the bill. You are responsible for filing a claim with your health insurance company independently, if applicable.
- Additional fees for services such as laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, and performance of additional unforeseen necessary procedures may apply.

## Step 1: Consultation

- Contact an authorized provider and schedule a consultation.
- During your consultation, the provider will determine whether the procedure you are requesting is medically necessary or elective cosmetic.
- If the procedure is determined to be elective cosmetic, the provider will complete and provide you with a Cosmetic Surgery Superbill.

## Step 2: Procedure Estimate and Payment

- Present the completed Cosmetic Surgery Superbill to the Medical Services Account (MSA) office.
- You will be provided with a printed estimate of the total cost of the procedure(s) selected.

- If you decide to undergo the procedure(s), you must pay for all services, in full, prior to scheduling the procedure(s).
- In addition to paying for the procedure(s), you will be required to sign a letter of acknowledgment (included with the printed estimate) before the surgery can be scheduled. In the letter of acknowledgment, you must accept financial responsibility for any additional fees for services rendered.
- Upon receipt of payment, you will be given a packet containing the estimated elective cosmetic surgery procedure costs, the invoice and receipt of payment, and the Superbill.

## Step 3: Schedule and Undergo Procedure

- Present the receipt provided to you at the MSA office to the Surgery Clinic.

- The procedure is scheduled.
- The procedure is performed as scheduled.

## Step 4: Post-Procedure

- You are responsible for any additional fees incurred. The balance must be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of the final bill.
- If no additional procedures, services, or supplies were performed or used, no additional bill will be generated.
- If a refund is due based on the procedure(s) performed and the supplies used, a refund request form will be provided for you to complete. The appropriate refund amount will be sent to you.