

SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGICAL PROCEDURES

Female to Male Breast Surgery

The most common procedure involves simple mastectomy with nipple / areola grafting. The breast is removed and a scar is located inferiorly along the inframammary fold. There is a second scar around the nipple/areola and the size of the areola is usually made smaller. A drain is placed under the skin to help the skin adhere to the muscle and this is left in place from 1-2 weeks. Patients purchase a compression garment to be worn to help decrease the likelihood of a seroma which is a fluid collection. The surgery is currently performed under general anesthesia with an overnight stay in the hospital. Patients may go home the day of surgery if they meet the requirements for early discharge. The most common complications from this surgery are scarring, asymmetry, infection, seromas, and decreased sensation to the nipples. Some patients with smaller breasts may be candidates to have the scar solely around the areola.

Male to Female Breast Surgery

Augmentation mammoplasty is performed after the patient has undergone hormonal therapy for at least 18 months and is not happy with breast size. The breasts are enlarged by placing saline implants under the pectoralis muscle. The scar can be placed along the inframammary fold, around the areola, or in the axilla. The surgery is currently performed under general anesthesia as an outpatient. The most common complications are scarring, asymmetry, infection, rupture, or capsular contracture.

Insurance Coverage

The insurance carriers in which we participate currently provide **NO COVERAGE** for any surgery related to gender reassignment.

Birth Certificate Letter: The State of Massachusetts does NOT require a certifying letter of bilateral mastectomies, therefore we do not provide a letter for the purpose of amending one's original sex on their birth certificate. Since our office does not perform genital surgery we do not provide a certified letter to that affect for any state.

The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's (HBIGDA) Standards of Care for Gender Identity Disorders

We adhere to the standards of care provided by the HBIGDA. **This includes one letter from a mental health professional for a referral for breast surgery. Patients must have undergone a minimum of 3 months of therapy, diagnosed with a gender identity disorder, and must be deemed ready for surgery. In unusual circumstances, we will request a second opinion by a local gender specialist. Surgery can not be scheduled until we receive this letter.**

Revision Surgery Policy

The need for a revision varies with the type of procedure. Most patients do not need additional surgery.

Revision surgery is **ONLY** indicated when:

1. the original surgery has left you with asymmetry, deformity, or other problem that **BOTH** you and your surgeon recognize,
2. the deformity either resulted from, or should have been corrected by the original surgery, and
3. the deformity can be improved through further surgery

Surgical revisions are usually delayed for 6-12 months because changes continue to occur and many deformities correct, making revisions unnecessary. If your revision requires general anesthesia, there will be a charge for the anesthesia as well as a facility fee. Small revisions under local anesthesia are performed in the office without charge. The revision policy is honored for 12 months after which time you would be responsible for the full cost of a revision.

If you wish to verify Massachusetts legal requirement for documentation please call:

Office of Vital Records
Boston, Massachusetts
(617) 740-2622

Vital Records
Northampton, MA
(413) 587-1224