

Regence

NOTE: This policy version is not effective until December 1, 2026.

Medical Policy Manual

Surgery, Policy No. 12.28

Rhinoplasty

Effective: December 1, 2026

Next Review: May 2027

Last Review: July 2026

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Medical Policies are developed to provide guidance for members and providers regarding coverage in accordance with contract terms. Benefit determinations are based in all cases on the applicable contract language. To the extent there may be any conflict between the Medical Policy and contract language, the contract language takes precedence.

PLEASE NOTE: Contracts exclude from coverage, among other things, services or procedures that are considered investigational or cosmetic. Providers may bill members for services or procedures that are considered investigational or cosmetic. Providers are encouraged to inform members before rendering such services that the members are likely to be financially responsible for the cost of these services.

DESCRIPTION

Rhinoplasty surgery reshapes the nose and is usually considered cosmetic. Reconstructive rhinoplasty may be performed to improve nasal respiratory function and/or to correct anatomic abnormalities caused by birth defects, disease or trauma.

MEDICAL POLICY CRITERIA

Notes:

- Member contracts for covered services vary. Member contracts may have specific language defining congenital and developmental anomalies. Member contract language takes precedence over medical policy.
 - A congenital anomaly is defined as an anomaly that is present at birth (e.g., cleft palate).
 - Developmental anomalies are conditions that develop after birth.
- Clinical documentation to support criteria is required (See Required Documentation)

Medically Necessary

- I. Initial or revision rhinoplasty may be considered **medically necessary** for reconstruction of a nasal deformity in only one or more of the following circumstances:
 - A. Secondary to a congenital anomaly, including but not limited to facial cleft; or
 - B. After tumor resection; or
 - C. Nasal airway obstruction when all of the following Criteria (1. – 3.) are met:
 1. There is significant obstruction of one or both nares documented by all of the following:
 - a. Difficulty breathing related to nasal passage obstruction (e.g., snoring, mouth breathing) affecting quality of life; and
 - b. Anterior rhinoscopy, nasal endoscopy, computed tomography (CT), or other appropriate imaging modality; and
 - c. Positive Cottle maneuver; and
 2. Septoplasty, vestibular stenosis, alar collapse, and/or turbinectomy surgeries are not expected to resolve the significant obstruction; and
 3. Nasal airway obstruction is poorly responsive to a documented six-week trial of conservative medical management (e.g., topical/nasal corticosteroids, antihistamines) or conservative medical management is not indicated (e.g., symptoms caused by significant trauma, supported by documentation including mechanism of injury, prior imaging and treatment).
- II. Excision and/or shaving of rhinophyma may be considered **medically necessary** when there is documented evidence (i.e., imaging studies and/or anterior - posterior, lateral and inferior photographs) demonstrating functional airway obstruction.

Not Medically Necessary

- III. Initial or revision rhinoplasty is considered **not medically necessary** when there is symptomatic nasal airway obstruction and Criteria I.C. 1. – 3. are not met.
- IV. Excision and/or shaving of rhinophyma is considered **not medically necessary** when there is functional airway obstruction and Criterion II is not met.

Cosmetic

- V. Initial or revision rhinoplasty for the sole purpose of changing appearance (i.e. for aesthetic reasons only, there is no functional impairment or there is no symptomatic nasal obstruction) is considered **cosmetic**.
- VI. Excision and/or shaving of rhinophyma for the sole purpose of changing appearance (i.e. for aesthetic reasons only, there is no functional airway obstruction) is considered **cosmetic**.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

It is critical that the list of information below is submitted for review to determine whether the policy criteria are met. If any of these items are not submitted, it could impact our review and decision outcome.

- Condition causing the need for rhinoplasty
- If not caused by congenital anomaly, including but not limited to facial cleft or tumor:
 - o Documentation of a physical examination describing internal and external nasal structures, including a positive Cottle maneuver and either anterior rhinoscopy or nasal endoscopy,
 - o Computed tomography (CT) or other appropriate imaging modality
 - o Conservative medical management provided, timeline and outcomes
 - o Any surgeries performed, with outcomes or documentation of why septoplasty, vestibular stenosis, alar collapse, and/or turbinectomy surgeries alone are not expected to resolve the nasal deformity.
- Documentation of significant trauma (e.g., motor vehicle accident) including history of mechanism of injury, prior imaging, and treatment, if applicable.
- Documentation of airway obstruction for rhinophyma treatment (i.e., imaging studies, and/or photographs with a minimum of one each: anterior - posterior, lateral and inferior views).

CROSS REFERENCES

1. [Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery](#), Surgery, Policy No. 12
2. [Minimally Invasive Treatments of Nasal Valve Collapse or Obstruction](#), Surgery, Policy No. 209
3. [Ablation for the Treatment of Chronic Rhinitis](#), Surgery, Policy No. 224

REFERENCES

None

CODES

Codes	Number	Description
CPT	30120	Excision or surgical planing of skin of nose for rhinophyma
	30400	Rhinoplasty, primary; lateral and alar cartilages and/or elevation of nasal tip
	30410	Rhinoplasty, primary; complete, external parts including bony pyramid, lateral and alar cartilages, and/or elevation of nasal tip
	30420	Rhinoplasty, primary; including major septal repair
	30430	Rhinoplasty secondary; minor revision (small amount of nasal tip work)
	30435	Rhinoplasty secondary; intermediate revision (bony work with osteotomies)
	30450	Rhinoplasty secondary; major revision (nasal tip work and osteotomies)
	30460	Rhinoplasty for nasal deformity secondary to congenital cleft lip and/or palate, including columellar lengthening; tip only
	30462	Rhinoplasty for nasal deformity secondary to congenital cleft lip and/or palate, including columellar lengthening; tip, septum, osteotomies
HCPCS	None	

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