

To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after implementation, please contact your PHP.

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Related Clinical Coverage Policies

Refer to <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/> for the related coverage policy listed below:

1-O-1, Reconstructive and Cosmetic Surgery

1-O-2, Craniofacial Surgery

1.0 Description of the Procedure, Product, or Service

Rhinoplasty, septoplasty, and septorhinoplasty are surgical procedures that may be performed to correct deviation or for cosmetic or reconstructive purposes.

1.1 Definitions

Rhinoplasty

This is a cosmetic or reconstructive surgery done to alter the contours of the nose without the involvement of the underlying nasal septa. It can correct impaired breathing caused by structural defects in the nose.

Septoplasty

Involves only the septum, the procedure is used to correct deformities of the nasal septum.

Septorhinoplasty

A more extensive procedure combining repairs to the external nasal pyramid or skeleton with repairs of the nasal septa to correct a functional impairment involving both structures. This may involve correcting damage or functional deficits that result from disease, surgery, or trauma. Surgery may also be performed to correct a congenital defect.

2.0 Eligibility Requirements

2.1 Provisions

2.1.1 General

(The term “General” found throughout this policy applies to all Medicaid policies)

- a. An eligible beneficiary shall be enrolled in the NC Medicaid Program *(Medicaid is NC Medicaid program, unless context clearly indicates otherwise)*.
- b. Provider(s) shall verify each Medicaid beneficiary’s eligibility each time a service is rendered.
- c. The Medicaid beneficiary may have service restrictions due to their eligibility category that would make them ineligible for this service.

2.1.2 Specific

(The term “Specific” found throughout this policy only applies to this policy)

- a. **Medicaid**
None Apply.

2.2 Special Provisions

2.2.1 EPSDT Special Provision: Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age

- a. **42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r) [1905(r) of the Social Security Act]**

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the state Medicaid agency to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid beneficiary under 21 years of age **if** the service is **medically necessary health care** to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition [health problem] identified through a screening examination (includes any evaluation by a physician or other licensed practitioner).

This means EPSDT covers most of the medical or remedial care a child needs to improve or maintain his or her health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

Medically necessary services will be provided in the most economic mode, as long as the treatment made available is similarly efficacious to the service requested by the beneficiary’s physician, therapist, or other licensed practitioner; the determination process does not delay the delivery of the needed service; and the determination does not limit the beneficiary’s right to a free choice of providers.

EPSDT does not require the state Medicaid agency to provide any service, product or procedure:

1. that is unsafe, ineffective, or experimental or investigational.
2. that is not medical in nature or not generally recognized as an accepted method of medical practice or treatment.

Service limitations on scope, amount, duration, frequency, location of service, and other specific criteria described in clinical coverage policies may be exceeded or may not apply as long as the provider’s documentation shows that the requested service is medically necessary “to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition” [health problem]; that is, provider documentation shows how the service, product, or procedure meets all EPSDT criteria, including to correct or improve or maintain the beneficiary’s health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

b. EPSDT and Prior Approval Requirements

1. If the service, product, or procedure requires prior approval, the fact that the beneficiary is under 21 years of age does **NOT** eliminate the requirement for prior approval.
2. **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about EPSDT and prior approval is found in the *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*, and on the EPSDT provider page. The Web addresses are specified below.

NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide:

<https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/provider-manuals.html>

EPSDT provider page: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>

3.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Covered

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age.

3.1 General Criteria Covered

Medicaid shall cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when medically necessary, and:

- a. the procedure, product, or service is individualized, specific, and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the illness or injury under treatment, and not in excess of the beneficiary's needs;
- b. the procedure, product, or service can be safely furnished, and no equally effective and more conservative or less costly treatment is available statewide; and
- c. the procedure, product, or service is furnished in a manner not primarily intended for the convenience of the beneficiary, the beneficiary's caretaker, or the provider.

3.2 Specific Criteria Covered

3.2.1 Specific criteria covered by Medicaid

Medicaid shall cover rhinoplasty and septoplasty procedures when the beneficiary meets the following criteria:

Rhinoplasty

- a. Medicaid shall cover rhinoplasty procedures when **any** of the following criteria are met:
 1. Nasal deformity secondary to a congenital cleft lip, palate or another congenital craniofacial deformity causing a functional impairment.
 2. Reconstruction following removal of a nasal malignancy, an abscess, or osteomyelitis that has caused severe deformity and breathing difficulty.
 3. Deformity caused by documented trauma within the previous 18 months.

Septoplasty

- b. Medicaid shall cover septoplasty procedures when **any** of the following criteria are met:
1. Septal deviation that causes continuous nasal airway obstruction, resulting in nasal breathing difficulty that does not respond to appropriate medical therapy.
 2. Four or more documented episodes of recurrent sinusitis in the last 365 days of with exacerbations secondary to a deviated septum that do not resolve after appropriate medical and antibiotic therapy.
 3. Four or more documented episodes of recurrent epistaxis with exacerbations related to a septal deformity.
 4. Septoplasty performed in association with a cleft lip or a cleft palate repair.
 5. Asymptomatic septal deformity that prevents access to other intranasal areas when such access is required to perform medically necessary surgical procedures.
 6. Deformities of the bony nasal pyramid that directly cause symptomatic airway compromise, sleep apnea, or chronic rhinosinusitis when these conditions are not responsive to appropriate medical management.

3.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Covered

None Apply.

4.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Not Covered

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age.

4.1 General Criteria Not Covered

Medicaid shall not cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when:

- a. the beneficiary does not meet the eligibility requirements listed in **Section 2.0**;
- b. the beneficiary does not meet the criteria listed in **Section 3.0**;
- c. the procedure, product, or service duplicates another provider's procedure, product, or service; or
- d. the procedure, product, or service is experimental, investigational, or part of a clinical trial.

4.2 Specific Criteria Not Covered

4.2.1 Specific Criteria Not Covered by Medicaid

Medicaid shall not cover Rhinoplasty and Septoplasty procedures when they are performed:

- a. to improve appearance; or
- b. more than 18 months after the documented trauma that caused the deformity.

4.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Not Covered

None Apply.

5.0 Requirements for and Limitations on Coverage

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.

5.1 Prior Approval

Medicaid shall require approval for most rhinoplasty and septoplasty procedures. The provider shall obtain prior approval before rendering rhinoplasty and septoplasty procedures. Refer to **Attachment A, Letter C** for the list of prior approval procedures.

5.2 Prior Approval Requirements

5.2.1 General

The provider(s) shall submit to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Utilization Review Contractor the following:

- a. the prior approval request; and
- b. all health records and any other records that support the beneficiary has met the specific criteria in **Subsection 3.2** of this policy.

5.2.2 Specific

The rendering provider shall submit to NC Medicaid's vendor the following:

- a. the prior approval request; and
- b. all health care records and any other records that support the beneficiary has met the specific criteria in **Subsection 3.2.1** of this policy including:
 1. Location and cause of the defect or deformity;
 2. Pre-operative medical photographs of the defect consisting of frontal, lateral, and columellar reviews. Medical photographs should be clearly marked with:
 - A. the beneficiary's first and last name;
 - B. the beneficiary's identification number;
 - C. the provider's name and NPI;
 - D. and the date the photographs were taken;
 3. A list of the CPT codes describing the procedure to be performed;
 4. Documentation of frequency, severity, and description of symptoms;
 5. Documentation of the number of sinus infections that have occurred in the last 365 days when applicable;
 6. Documentation of the number of episodes of epistaxis that have occurred when applicable;
 7. Bodily function that will be improved or restored;
 8. Medical records documenting the history of the trauma or injury (if applicable), with the date of injury and any other related surgeries;
 9. Documentation of sleep apnea and symptoms of breathing obstruction, if applicable, including consecutive treatment rendered; and
 10. Postoperative plan of care.

Note: If the Medicaid beneficiary is under 21 years of age, information supporting that all EPSDT criteria are met and evidence-based literature supporting the request, if available.

5.3 Additional Limitations or Requirements

None Apply.

6.0 Provider(s) Eligible to Bill for the Procedure, Product, or Service

To be eligible to bill for the procedure, product, or service related to this policy, the provider(s) shall:

- c. meet Medicaid qualifications for participation;
- d. have a current and signed Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Provider Administrative Participation Agreement; and
- e. bill only for procedures, products, and services that are within the scope of their clinical practice, as defined by the appropriate licensing entity.

6.1 Provider Qualifications and Occupational Licensing Entity Regulations

None Apply.

6.2 Provider Certifications

None Apply.

7.0 Additional Requirements

Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age.

7.1 Compliance

Provider(s) shall comply with the following in effect at the time the service is rendered:

- a. All applicable agreements, federal, state and local laws and regulations including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and record retention requirements; and
- b. All NC Medicaid's clinical (medical) coverage policies, guidelines, policies, provider manuals, implementation updates, and bulletins published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHHS, DHHS division(s) or fiscal contractor(s).

8.0 Policy Implementation/Revision Information

Original Effective Date: January 1, 1985

Revision Information:

Date	Section Revised	Change
7/1/2010	Throughout	Policy Conversion: Implementation of Session Law 2009-451, Section 10.32 “NC HEALTH CHOICE/PROCEDURES FOR CHANGING MEDICAL POLICY.”
3/1/2012	Throughout	To be equivalent where applicable to NC DMA’s Clinical Coverage Policy # 1-O-5 under Session Law 2011-145 § 10.41.(b)
3/1/2012	Throughout	Technical changes to merge Medicaid and NCHC current coverage into one policy.
10/01/2015	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language and added ICD-10 codes to comply with federally mandated 10/1/2015 implementation where applicable.
04/01/2018	Subsection 5.2.b.2	Additional clarification for the photographs was added.
03/15/2019	Table of Contents	Added, “To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after November 1, 2019, please contact your PHP.”
03/15/2019	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language.
01/03/2020	Table of Contents	Updated policy template language, “To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after implementation, please contact your PHP.”
01/03/2020	Attachment A	Added, “Unless directed otherwise, Institutional Claims must be billed according to the National Uniform Billing Guidelines. All claims must comply with National Coding Guidelines”.
08/15/2023	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language due to North Carolina Health Choice Program’s move to Medicaid. Policy posted 08/15/2023 with an effective date of 4/1/2023.
04/01/2025	Header on all pages	Removed /or from the title of the policy.
04/01/2025	Page 1	Addition of a text box that lists Related Clinical Coverage Policies.
04/01/2025	Subsection 1.1	Moved the text that included definitions of terms into a list under Definitions.
04/01/2025	Subsection 3.2.1.1	Removed the word septoplasty and created this subsection. Updated text relating to nasal deformity.

Date	Section Revised	Change
04/1/2025	Subsection 3.2.1.2.	Created this new subsection for criteria for septoplasty procedures
04/01/2025	Subsection 3.2.1.2.b.	Added criteria that recurrent sinusitis is “four or more episodes in a year” and added text “that does not resolve after” before appropriate medical and antibiotic therapy.
04/01/2025	Subsection 3.2.1.2.c.	Added criteria after recurrent epistaxis of “four or more significant episodes.
04/01/2025	Subsection 3.2.1.2.d.	Added criteria “Performed in association with cleft lip or cleft palate repair.
04/01/2025	Subsection 4.2.1.a.	Removed language that listed non-inclusive items.
04/01/2025	Subsection 4.2.1.b.	Removed the word “significant.”
04/01/2025	Subsection 5.2.1	Added the word “rendering.” Added text “Documentation of the number of sinus infections that have occurred in the last 365 days when applicable;” and “Documentation of the number of episodes of epistaxis that have occurred when applicable;” Added text, “Postoperative plan of care.”
04/01/2025	Subsection 5.2.1	Moved language from section 5.2.1 to section 5.2.2
04/01/2025	Attachment A, Letter C	Removed the table of CPT codes that do not require prior approval.
04/15/2025	Section 8	Clarification: Changes to specific criteria covered for septoplasty and rhinoplasty are located in subsection 3.2.1. References to subsections 3.2.1.1, 3.2.1.2, 3.2.1.2(b), 3.2.1.2(c), 3.2.1.2(d) are listed in error.

Attachment A: Claims-Related Information

Provider(s) shall comply with the, *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*, Medicaid bulletins, fee schedules, NC Medicaid’s clinical coverage policies and any other relevant documents for specific coverage and reimbursement for Medicaid.

A. Claim Type

Professional (CMS-1500/837P transaction)

Institutional (UB-04/837I transaction)

Unless directed otherwise, Institutional Claims must be billed according to the National Uniform Billing Guidelines. All claims must comply with National Coding Guidelines.

B. International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revisions, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) and Procedural Coding System (PCS)

Provider(s) shall report the ICD-10-CM and Procedural Coding System (PCS) to the highest level of specificity that supports medical necessity. Provider(s) shall use the current ICD-10 edition and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

C. Code(s)

Provider(s) shall report the most specific billing code that accurately and completely describes the procedure, product or service provided. Provider(s) shall use the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and UB-04 Data Specifications Manual (for a complete listing of valid revenue codes) and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for the code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

If no such specific CPT or HCPCS code exists, then the provider(s) shall report the procedure, product or service using the appropriate unlisted procedure or service code.

CPT Code(s)	
The following procedure codes require prior approval.	
30400	30430
30410	30435
30420	30450

Unlisted Procedure or Service

CPT: The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions for Use of the CPT Codebook, Unlisted Procedure or Service, and Special Report as documented in the current CPT in effect at the time of service.

HCPCS: The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions for Use of HCPCS National Level II codes, Unlisted Procedure or Service and Special Report as documented in the current HCPCS edition in effect at the time of service.

D. Modifiers

Provider(s) shall follow applicable modifier guidelines.

E. Billing Units

Provider(s) shall report the appropriate code(s) used which determines the billing unit unit(s).

F. Place of Service

Inpatient hospital, Outpatient hospital, Ambulatory Surgery Center, Office, Clinic.

G. Co-payments

For Medicaid refer to the NC Medicaid State Plan:

<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/meetings-notices/medicaid-state-plan-public-notices>

H. Reimbursement

Providers are required to bill applicable revenue codes.

Provider(s) shall bill their usual and customary charges.

For a schedule of rates, refer to: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>