



**KAISER PERMANENTE**<sup>®</sup>  
Mid-Atlantic States

## **Prosthodontic Reconstruction after Reconstructive Jaw Surgery Medical Coverage Policy**

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### **Benefit Alert**

- This medical coverage policy applies to all Commercial members including the Exchange.
  - Please evaluate all other members using the appropriate government requirements, e.g., Federal brochure, Medicare Coverage Database or State Medicaid coverage publications
  - Please review the member's benefit plan for availability and limitations of benefit. Coverage will be approved based on a member's benefit and if the medical criteria are met.
  - This medical coverage policy does not apply to pediatric dental services related to Essential Health Benefits (EHB).
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**I. Procedure:** Prosthodontic Reconstruction after medically necessary major reconstructive jaw surgery or major penetrating trauma

**II. Specialty:** Head and Neck Surgery, Otolaryngology, Oncology

**III. Scope**

The scope of this policy is limited to prosthodontic reconstruction performed in conjunction with medically necessary reconstructive surgery due to impaired, lost or missing oral and/or facial structures as a result of benign tumors, malignant tumors, or penetrating trauma.

**IV. Indications for Referral**

Prosthodontic reconstruction with reconstructive surgery is considered medically necessary when it is directly related to impairment, injury or other medical conditions listed in section III of this policy and integral to medical procedures in order to improve or restore the physiological function of the affected body part.

**A. Reconstructive surgery following iatrogenic causes such as surgical resection of oral cancer or an invasive tumor; major penetrating trauma involving the mouth or gums; or other diseased tissues of the jaw or facial bones.**

1. If functional segments of the oral cavity are surgically removed during tumor treatment, maxillary or mandibular reconstruction may be performed to restore functionality through vascularized free tissue transfer, and the subsequent use of osseo-integrated implants with prosthetics to minimize impairment.
2. Orthodontic therapy is covered if used in the first course of treatment to correct a malocclusion caused by an approved oral procedure if functional segments of the oral cavity are surgically removed during tumor treatment. This includes maxillary or mandibular reconstruction



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performed to restore functionality through vascularized free tissue transfer, and the subsequent use of osseo-integrated implants with prosthetics to minimize impairment.

3. Oral reconstruction with the use of dental prostheses is covered to assist or enhance the patient's function after reconstructive surgery.

**V. Limitations and Exclusions**

**A. Limitations**

This medical policy does not apply to medically necessary orthodontia covered as part of pediatric dental services up to age 19 designated as Essential Health Benefits (EHB) under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) requirements.

**B. Exclusions**

Prosthodontic reconstruction is not considered medically necessary for the following. The list is not all-inclusive:

1. In the absence of medical criteria, listed in section A of this policy; **and**
2. When the prosthodontic procedure or device is considered investigational or experimental;
3. When the reconstructive surgery is NOT intended primarily to improve or restore a functional impairment or to correct significant deformity that resulted from injury, trauma, or previous therapeutic process;
4. Dental services performed in conjunction with medically necessary reconstructive surgery;
5. For conditions that are primarily cosmetic or aesthetic in nature or when self-esteem is the primary reason for treatment;
6. Procedures that are dental-in-nature such as procedures to remove, repair, replace, restore, or reposition teeth that were lost or damaged while biting or chewing;
  - a. Attachments to conventional removable prostheses or fixed bridgework which includes semi-precision or precision attachments associated with partial dentures, full or partial overdentures, crown, or bridge abutments, Also, any elective endodontic procedure related to a tooth or root involved in the construction of a prosthesis or any internal attachment associated with an implant prosthesis.

**VI. Definition**

1. **Prosthodontics**, also known as prosthetic dentistry or dental prosthetics, is an area of dental specialty that focuses on restoration and replacement of lost or damaged teeth and jaw structures using dental prostheses.
2. **Orthodontics** is a dental specialty that focuses on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of dental deformities (teeth alignment and occlusion) in addition to irregularity in the relationship of the lower to upper jaw and the use of braces.



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**Approval History**

Effective June 01, 2016, state filing is no longer required per Maryland House Bill HB 798 – Health Insurance – Reporting

<b>Date Approved by RUMC</b>	<b>Date of Implementation</b>
05/14/2020	05/14/2020
04/16/2021	04/16/2021
04/25/2022	04/25/2022
04/25/2023	04/25/2023
04/25/2024	04/25/2024

The Regional Utilization Management Committee received delegated authority in 2011 to review and approve designated Utilization Management and Medical Coverage Policies by the Regional Quality Improvement Committee.

Note: Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States (KPMAS) include referral and authorization criteria to support primary care and specialty care practitioners, as appropriate, in caring for members with selected conditions. Medical Coverage Policies are not intended or designed as a substitute for the reasonable exercise of independent clinical judgment by a practitioner in any particular set of circumstances for an individual member.

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