



## Ordering External Breast Prostheses & Supplies



### What's Changed?

- Added more codes we cover (page 2)
- Added codes we deny (page 2)

Substantive content changes are in dark red.

## Coverage

At the time of a mastectomy and after, we cover a patient's reasonable and necessary external breast prostheses and supplies. The ordering practitioner must submit a standard written order (SWO) for new items and replacements.

### Eligible HCPCS Codes

- **L8000** — Breast prosthesis, mastectomy bra, without integrated breast prosthesis form, any size, any type
- **L8001** — Breast prosthesis, mastectomy bra, with integrated breast prosthesis form, unilateral, any size, any type
- **L8002** — Breast prosthesis, mastectomy bra, with integrated breast prosthesis form, bilateral, any size, any type
- **L8015** — External breast prosthesis garment, with mastectomy form, post mastectomy, covered for use in the postoperative period prior to a permanent breast prosthesis or as an alternative to a mastectomy bra and breast prosthesis
- **L8020** — Breast prosthesis, mastectomy form
- **L8030** — Breast prosthesis, silicone or equal, without integral adhesive
- **L8032** — Nipple prosthesis, prefabricated, reusable, any type, each
- **L8033** — Nipple prosthesis, custom fabricated, reusable, any material, any type, each

**Tip:** Be sure to review the [documentation requirements](#) for breast prostheses.

We deny claims for codes L8010, L8031, and L8035 for the following reasons:

- **L8010** — Breast prosthesis, mastectomy sleeve: Doesn't meet the definition of a prosthesis
- **L8031** — Breast prosthesis silicone or equal, with integral adhesive: No demonstrated medical necessity or clinical benefit
- **L8035** — Custom breast prosthesis, post mastectomy, molded to patient model: Medical necessity hasn't been established, not reasonable and necessary

Use code A4280 when billing for an adhesive skin support that attaches an external breast prosthesis directly to the chest wall.

[Local Coverage Determination \(LCD\): External Breast Prostheses \(L33317\)](#) and [Article: External Breast Prostheses \(A52478\)](#) have more coverage information, including ICD-10 codes. Find your [Medicare Administrative Contractor's \(MAC's\) website](#) for more information.

## Practitioners: What You Need to Do

### Send a SWO

The prescribing practitioner must submit a signed SWO to the supplier before delivering the prosthesis or submitting a claim. We allow verbal orders when they're followed by a written SWO.

The patient's medical record should show:

- A past mastectomy, which shows they've had a surgical procedure to remove all or part of 1 or both breasts, supporting medical necessity
- The diagnosis code to support the need for the prosthesis or related item

The SWO must include:

- The patient's name or MBI
- A general description of the item, like brand name or model number, HCPCS code, or HCPCS code narrative
- The quantity dispensed (how many bras or prostheses)
- The order date
- Your name or NPI
- Your signature

**Tip:** The treating practitioner should make medical record documentation available to the supplier or MAC upon request. You can support the diagnoses related to the patient's need for the prostheses-related items with:

- Treating practitioner records
- Hospital records
- Nursing home records
- Home health agency records
- Records from other health care professionals
- Test reports in the patient's medical record



## Supplier Replacements

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We don't cover prostheses replacement sooner than its useful lifetime.

### Reasonable Useful Lifetime (RUL) & Replacement Expectancy

- Silicone breast prostheses (L8030) = 2 years
- Nipple prostheses (L8032, L8033) = 3 months
- Fabric, foam, or fiber filled breast prostheses (L8001, L8002, L8015) = 6 months
- We replace the **same type** of external breast prosthesis if it's lost or damaged beyond repair (this doesn't include ordinary wear and tear)
- We cover a **different type** of external breast prosthesis if the patient's medical condition changes, requiring a new SWO
- 1 external breast prosthesis per side for the prosthesis's useful lifetime
- 2 external prostheses, 1 per side, for patients who've had bilateral mastectomies
- We deny more than 1 external prosthesis per side as not reasonable and necessary

**Tip:** Suppliers should use appropriate anatomic modifiers when submitting a claim.

## Supplier Records

Suppliers must keep proof of delivery, if requested, and documentation in their files for 7 years from the service date.

## Resources

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- [How to Use the Medicare Coverage Database](#)
- [Article: Standard Documentation Requirements for All Claims Submitted to DME MACs \(A55426\)](#)
- [Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15](#), section 120
- [Medicare Coverage Database](#)

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