

MVP/Preferred Care BENEFIT INTERPRETATION MANUAL

Alopecia/Wigs /Scalp Prosthesis

Type of Policy

Durable Medical Equipment/Prosthetics

Codes

HCPCS code: S8095

Non-covered ICD 9 Procedure Code: 86.83

Non-covered CPT 4 procedure codes: 15775, 15776

Non-covered HCPCS codes: S0138,S0139

Description

Alopecia andArtificial hair/Wigs

Alopecia, or hair loss, affects millions of people including children. The cause of alopecia is complex and includes hormonal imbalance, endocrine abnormalities, genetics, medications, stress, severe illness, malnourishment, infections and autoimmune diseases. Types of alopecia can be classified as the following:

- **Androgenic Alopecia** is male or female pattern baldness, is caused by a combination of genetics and hormones, and is the most common type of hair loss. Since up to two thirds of men, and a number of women, experience androgenic alopecia, this condition is considered a normal variant rather than a disease.
- **Telogen and Anagen Effluvium** is a temporary hair loss caused by medications, cessation of birth control pills, acute illness, surgery, stress, pregnancy or other medical treatment. The hair usually grows back when the external cause is treated, removed or resolved.
- **Loose Anagen Hair Syndrome** is a form of hair loss that is often patchy in appearance but sometimes has a diffuse presentation. It is a condition that affects children most. In Loose Anagen Syndrome, the hair fiber is poorly anchored to the hair follicle. The syndrome improves with age of its own accord in children but it can be more persistent in older individuals. There are no known effective treatments.
- **Alopecia Areata** is believed to be caused by an autoimmune reaction and is manifested as hair falling out in patches. It is subdivided into three categories based on the extent of hair loss.
 - **Alopecia Areata** is considered a mild form of the disease and only a few spots become bald.
 - **Alopecia Totalis** is total loss of hair on the scalp.
 - **Alopecia Universalis** is complete hair loss of all hair on the scalp and body including eyelashes, brows, and pubic hair.

- **Scarring Alopecias** result from infection and inflammation of the hair follicles and are characterized by extensive follicular destruction. Some examples of scarring alopecias include, but are not limited to:
 - **lichen Planopilaris;**
 - **discoid Lupus Erythematosus;**
 - **folliculitis Declavans/Pseudopelade; and**
 - **follicular Degeneration Syndrome.**
- **Trichotillomania** is a compulsive disorder characterized by pulling out of one's own hair.
- **Drug-Induced Alopecia** may occur with certain drugs such as cytotoxics, antithyroid drugs, anticoagulants, antituberculous drug agents, excessive vitamin A or oral contraceptives.

Hair loss may indicate the use of a wig. MVP's New York and Vermont certificates and Preferred Care contracts do not consider wigs to be a prosthetic or DME item. They are considered a cosmetic item and, therefore, are not considered for coverage.

The MVP New Hampshire certificate provides coverage for wigs/scalp prosthesis as directed by a state mandate.

Indications/Criteria

Medical information as indicated below:

All of the following must apply for New Hampshire Members only:

- must be a resident of the state of New Hampshire and principal place of employment must be in the state of New Hampshire; and
- coverage for hair loss is considered for one of the following reasons:
 - permanent loss of scalp hair due to an injury; or
 - hair loss due to alopecia areata, alopecia totalis, alopecia medicamentosa (hair loss from the treatment of any form of cancer or leukemia).

Exclusions/Limitations

Hair loss due to an inherited baldness trait, malnutrition or other disorder not specified under criteria.

Other treatments that are considered cosmetic and not a covered benefit include:

- drugs (e.g. Monoxidil (S0139)/Rogaine, Finasteride (S0138)/Propecia and other over the counter hair growth medications or products);
- hair transplantation (86.83);
- surgical treatment, e.g. punch grafts, rotation flaps, scalp reduction (15775, 15776); and
- trichotillomania is considered for coverage for Preferred Care contracts as a Mental Health benefit. Refer to the Preferred Care Mental Health Medical policy.

Note: For authorization requirements refer to Appendix A and Appendix B in the Referral/Precertification/Prior Justification/Notification Administrative policy. You may also refer to the "Prior Justification/Precertification of Certain Prescription Drugs" for

information on drugs that require precertification and prior justification. Both policies are available on the *easyLink* for Providers at www.preferredcare.org.

References

MVP contracts
New Hampshire state mandates
Preferred Care contracts

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Approvals & Review/Revisions

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