



Elective Cosmetic Surgery Patient Information

Elective cosmetic procedures are not a TRICARE covered benefit. However, a limited number of cosmetic surgery cases are permitted in Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) to support graduate medical education training, skill maintenance, certification, and recertification for qualified specialists.

Eligibility

- Elective cosmetic procedures are restricted to TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries, including TRICARE for Life participants, who will not lose TRICARE eligibility for at least 6 months.
- Active Duty personnel must have written permission from their unit commander before undergoing an elective cosmetic surgery procedure.

- Elective cosmetic procedures are performed on a “space-available” basis only. Elective cosmetic surgery cases will not be performed if they would cause other medically necessary and/or reconstructive surgery cases to be cancelled or rescheduled.
- Follow-up care after an elective cosmetic procedure is not guaranteed in an MTF because the care required may exceed the ability of the facility and/or there may not be appointments available.

Payment

- All patients, including active duty personnel, must pay estimated costs for all elective cosmetic procedures before surgery is scheduled.

- The cost of elective cosmetic procedures includes applicable professional, facility, and anesthesia fees plus the costs of any implants, pharmaceuticals, and other separately billable items.
- Rates cannot be guaranteed until estimated charges have been paid in full.
- Even if you have other health insurance (OHI), you are responsible for the bill. You are responsible for filing a claim with your health insurance company independently, if applicable.
- Additional fees for services such as laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, and performance of additional unforeseen necessary procedures may apply.

Standard Process for Elective Cosmetic Surgery

Step 1: Consultation

- Contact an authorized provider and schedule a consultation.
- During your consultation, the provider will determine whether the procedure you are requesting is medically necessary or elective cosmetic.
- If the procedure is determined to be elective cosmetic, the provider will complete and provide you with a Cosmetic Surgery Superbill.

Step 2: Procedure Estimate and Payment

- Present the completed Cosmetic Surgery Superbill to the Medical Services Account (MSA) office.
- You will be provided with a printed estimate of the total cost of the procedure(s) selected.

- If you decide to undergo the procedure(s), you must pay for all services, in full, prior to scheduling the procedure(s).

- In addition to paying for the procedure(s), you will be required to sign a letter of acknowledgment before the surgery can be scheduled. In the letter of acknowledgment, you must accept financial responsibility for any additional fees for services rendered.

- Upon receipt of payment, you will be given a packet containing the estimated elective cosmetic surgery procedure costs, the invoice and receipt of payment, and the Superbill.

Step 3: Schedule and Undergo Procedure

- Present the receipt provided to you at the MSA office to the Surgery Clinic.

- The procedure is scheduled.
- The procedure is performed as scheduled.

Step 4: Post-Procedure

- You are responsible for any additional fees incurred. The balance must be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of the final bill.
- If no additional procedures, services, or supplies were performed or used, no additional bill will be generated.
- If a refund is due based on the procedure(s) performed and the supplies used, a refund request form will be provided to you to complete. The appropriate refund amount will be sent to you.