

November 13, 2020

The Woman's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 requires Welfare Funds that provide coverage for mastectomies to also provide coverage for related reconstructive surgery and to provide notice of this coverage on an annual basis.

The Sheet Metal No. 36 Welfare Fund provides coverage in conformity with this Act as follows:

A participant or beneficiary who is receiving benefits in connection with a mastectomy and who elects breast reconstruction in connection with such mastectomy, is also covered for-

(1) all stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed;

(2) surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance; and

(3) prostheses and physical complications of mastectomy, including lymphedemas (fluid retention and swelling related to the lymph nodes);

in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient.

Coverage is subject to any deductibles, co-payments, pre-certification, pre-authorization, or other requirements that apply under the plan for similar types of coverage.