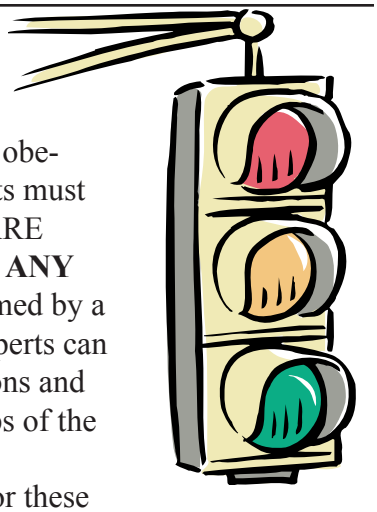
TRICARE Europe

Why You Need Preauthorization for Cosmetic, Plastic, and Morbid Obesity Surgery

The following is an overview of the TRICARE Europe preauthorization program for cosmetic, plastic, reconstructive, and morbid obesity treatment and surgeries, as well as a description of what is and what is not covered by TRICARE Europe.

Preauthorization



Beneficiaries seeking cosmetic, plastic, reconstructive, or morbid obesity surgeries or treatments must contact their local TRICARE Service Center **BEFORE ANY PROCEDURE** is performed by a civilian provider. TSC experts can answer all of your questions and walk you through the steps of the preauthorization process.

TRICARE coverage for these types of surgeries or treatments is very limited. Preauthorization is our way to ensure that the treatment you seek is covered by TRICARE. The end result is that you won't get stuck with the bill.

In general, TRICARE covers cosmetic, plastic, reconstructive, and obesity treatments or surgeries that are medically essential.

Those that are not covered are considered either medically unessential procedures or side effects resulting directly from non-covered surgeries.

What is Covered

The following are some of the more common covered indications:

- Correction of a congenital anomaly
- Restoration of body form (including revision of scars) following an accidental injury
- Revision of disfiguring and extensive scars resulting from cancer surgery
- Topical treatment for severe scarring and keloid lesions resulting from burns, surgical procedures or traumatic events, only if there is evidence of impaired function
- Reconstructive breast surgery following a medically necessary mastectomy

What is NOT Covered

There are also a number of surgeries NOT covered by TRICARE. These include:

- Procedures performed for psychological or psychiatric reasons or as a result of the aging process
- Breast augmentation procedures
- Revision of scars resulting from surgery and/or disease process, except disfiguring and extensive scars resulting from cancer surgery
- Face Lifts
- Breast Reduction (unless there is a medical documentation of intractable pain not amenable to other forms of treatment)
- Panniculectomy (tummy tuck) body sculpting procedures
- Removal of tattoos
- Liposuction for body contouring
- The removal of silicone or saline breast implants

The Bottom Line

If you are considering cosmetic, plastic, reconstructive, or obesity surgery or treatment, the Health Benefits Advisor at your local TRICARE Service Center can help determine your coverage.

You can find the number for your local TRICARE Service Center at www.europe.tricare.osd.mil/benefit/tsclist.asp. You can also call your local military Medical Treatment Facility or the Centralized TRICARE Service Center at 00-49-(0) 6302-67-7433 to find your servicing TSC number.