

The University of California's comprehensive medical benefits encompass the broad needs of our diverse workforce to keep our employees, retirees and their family members healthy. Nearly all of UC's medical plans offer benefits for transgender health as highlighted in this fact sheet.

## **WHAT UC HEALTH BENEFITS COVER**

UC's health plans cover a wide range of transgender health benefits; however, there are some variations between plans. Check your medical plan's Evidence of Coverage booklet or call the carrier directly for additional details, including requirements for prior authorization and applicable co-pays and deductibles.

### **UC MEDICAL PLAN COVERAGE TYPICALLY COVERS**

- Medical office visits
- Prescription drugs
- Hormonal therapy
- Determining patient's medical readiness for surgery
- Gender reassignment surgery
- Anesthesia
- Hospital/skilled nursing facility

### **UC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE TYPICALLY COVERS**

- Psychological counseling
- Pre-transgender surgery clinical assessment
- Two independent physician/clinician certifications
- Determining patient's readiness for surgery

For employees enrolled in Kaiser Permanente, behavioral health benefits are available through Optum and Kaiser. However, Kaiser members who receive transgender counseling from Optum must receive counseling and approval from Kaiser for any medical procedure.

In certain situations, travel expenses to a surgical facility may also be covered. These benefits could include reimbursement for airfare, hotel stays and meals. These expenses should be discussed with the plan during the preauthorization process.

Medical plan copayments and coinsurance payments for transgender health procedures are eligible for reimbursement from the UC Health Flexible Spending Account if they are medically necessary.

## **MORE ABOUT TRANSGENDER HEALTH BENEFITS**

Generally, UC's medical plan transgender health benefits are based on medical necessity and guidelines (Standards of Care 8th Version) provided by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH).

For more information about transgender health, visit WPATH at [www.wpath.org](http://www.wpath.org). WPATH is a professional organization devoted to understanding gender identity. Additional resources are available through the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health ([www.transhealth.ucsf.edu](http://www.transhealth.ucsf.edu)) whose mission is to increase access to comprehensive, effective and affirming health care services for trans- and gender-variant communities.

For additional help with UC's transgender health benefits, consult with a UC Health Care Facilitator and/or call the member services number on your medical plan identification card.

After transgender procedures are completed, human resources and benefits records should be updated; contact the local benefits office for help.

This fact sheet does not offer a guarantee of coverage. Check the medical plan's booklet for details regarding eligibility for transgender health benefits and covered/exclusive care. All services require preauthorization and/or may require members to follow plan guidelines in obtaining services to ensure services are covered.

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