

Medical Benefit		Effective Date: 01/01/14	Next Review Date: 05/23
Preauthorization	No	Review Dates: 09/07, 09/08, 09/09, 09/10, 09/11, 09/12, 09/13, 09/14, 09/15, 09/16, 05/17, 05/18, 05/19, 05/20, 05/21, 05/22	

Preauthorization is not required.

The following protocol contains medical necessity criteria that apply for this service. The criteria are also applicable to services provided in the local Medicare Advantage operating area for those members, unless separate Medicare Advantage criteria are indicated. If the criteria are not met, reimbursement will be denied and the patient cannot be billed. Please note that payment for covered services is subject to eligibility and the limitations noted in the patient's contract at the time the services are rendered.

DESCRIPTION

Orthognathic surgery is the surgical correction of skeletal abnormalities of the mandible, maxilla or both. The underlying abnormality may be congenital (intrinsic), present at birth. These abnormalities may be recognized at birth or may not become obvious until the individual grows and develops. The dysmorphology may be extrinsic, the result of traumatic injuries or secondary to systemic diseases. Often, the severity of these deformities necessitates surgical correction in combination with other rehabilitative services, including no surgical therapies.

The primary goal of treatment is to improve form and function through correction of the underlying skeletal deformity.

As a direct effect of the resultant skeletal movements, changes in the soft-tissue drape overlying the facial skeleton may be realized. The soft-tissue changes are PAGE 1 Criteria for Orthognathic Surgery inherent to the procedure and must be considered in the surgical work-up and are not considered the primary goal of surgery.

POLICY

Orthognathic surgery is **medically necessary** for correction of the following skeletal deformities of the maxilla or mandible when it is documented that these skeletal deformities are contributing to significant dysfunction, and where the severity of the deformities precludes adequate treatment through dental therapeutics and orthodontics alone:

- A. Anteroposterior discrepancies: established norm = 2 mm
 1. Maxillary/mandibular incisor relationship:
 - a. Horizontal overjet of +5 mm or more.
 - b. Horizontal overjet of zero to a negative value.
 2. Maxillary/mandibular anteroposterior molar relationship discrepancy of 4 mm or more (norm 0 to 1 mm).
 3. These values represent two or more standard deviation from published norms.

B. Vertical discrepancies:

1. Presence of a vertical facial skeletal deformity which is two or more standard deviations from published norms for accepted skeletal landmarks.
2. Open Bite:
 - a. No vertical overlap of anterior teeth.
 - b. Unilateral or bilateral posterior open bite greater than 2 mm.
3. Deep overbite with impingement or irritation of buccal or lingual soft tissues of the opposing arch.
4. Supraeruption of a dentoalveolar segment due to lack of occlusion.

C. Transverse discrepancies:

1. Presence of a transverse skeletal discrepancy which is two or more standard deviations from published norms,
2. Total bilateral maxillary palatal cusp to mandibular fossa discrepancy of 4 mm or greater, or a unilateral discrepancy of 3 mm or greater, given normal axial inclination of the posterior teeth.

D. Asymmetries:

1. Anteroposterior, transverse or lateral asymmetries greater than 3 mm with concomitant occlusal asymmetry.

Orthognathic surgery may be **medically necessary** for patients with underlying craniofacial skeletal deformities that are contributing to the following conditions:

DOCUMENTED OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA

Before surgery, such patients should be properly evaluated to determine the cause and site of their disorder and appropriate non-surgical treatments attempted when indicated. Obstructive sleep apnea is also discussed in the Diagnosis and Medical Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome Protocol.

TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT PATHOLOGY

Skeletal malocclusion and TMJ dysfunction may be related in some patients. Prior to performing an orthognathic procedure, non-surgical therapies should be attempted, including those procedures and treatments that mimic the effects of occlusal alteration. Temporomandibular joint pathology is also discussed in the Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction Protocol.

FACIAL SKELETAL DISCREPANCIES ASSOCIATED WITH DOCUMENTED SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS

Altered speech production may be associated with facial skeletal deformities. The most common impairment is a distortion within the sibilant sound class. Prior to surgery, speech evaluation should be obtained to demonstrate the nature of the problem and to determine if improvement can be expected.

Orthognathic surgery is considered cosmetic and **not medically necessary** for correction of unaesthetic facial features, regardless of whether these are associated with psychological disorders. Mentoplasty or genial osteotomies/ostectomies (chin surgeries) are always considered cosmetic and **not medically necessary** when performed as an isolated procedure to address genial hypoplasia, hypertrophy, or asymmetry.

See also the Cosmetic vs. Reconstructive Surgery or Services Protocol.

Services that are the subject of a clinical trial do not meet our Technology Assessment and Medically Necessary Services Protocol criteria and are considered investigational. *For explanation of experimental and investigational, please refer to the Technology Assessment and Medically Necessary Services Protocol.*

It is expected that only appropriate and medically necessary services will be rendered. We reserve the right to conduct prepayment and postpayment reviews to assess the medical appropriateness of the above-referenced procedures. **Some of this protocol may not pertain to the patients you provide care to, as it may relate to products that are not available in your geographic area.**

REFERENCE

We are not responsible for the continuing viability of web site addresses that may be listed below.

1. American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), Criteria for orthognathic surgery: AAOMS; 2020. https://www.aaoms.org/docs/practice_resources/clinical_resources/ortho_criteria.pdf Accessed 04/11/2022.