



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MCO Transmittal No. 220

Physician Transmittal No. 170

Nurse Practitioner Transmittal No. 38

Physician Assistant Transmittal No. 17

Speech/Language Pathologist Transmittal No. 6

Pharmacist Prescriber Transmittal No. 5

July 23, 2024

To: Managed Care Organizations
Physicians
Nurse Practitioners
Licensed Clinical Social Workers
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors
Licensed Electrologists
Medical Tattoo Artists
Physician Assistants
Psychologists
Psychiatrists
Professional Counselors
Social Workers
Speech/Language Pathologists
Pharmacists

From: Sandra Kick, Director 
Office of Medical Benefits Management

Re: **Update:** Expanded Medicaid Coverage of Gender-Affirming Treatments: New Guidance on Provision of Electrology and Medical Tattoo Services

Note: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this memorandum.

This transmittal provides an updated provider type for Electrologists and Medical Tattoo Artists to become enrolled with Maryland Medicaid, and be reimbursed for medically necessary gender affirming electrolysis and medical tattoo services, as originally outlined in [PT 72-24: Expanded Medicaid Coverage of Gender-Affirming Treatments: New Guidance on Provision of Electrology and Medical Tattoo Services](#). Effective July 1, 2024, all providers enrolling under this provider

type should enroll using the permanent PT GA - Gender Affirming Care. The remaining MDH guidance for this provider type remains the same, and is reiterated below:

Although currently certain providers in MCO networks, namely physicians, are licensed to provide hair removal services, the service is more typically offered by other providers, such as Electrologists.

Hair removal services may be provided as long as appropriate documentation of medical necessity is obtained. For medical necessity guidance, please review the Gender Affirming Care Clinical Criteria at <https://bit.ly/485Hpti>.

Electrologists who are licensed by the Maryland Board of Nursing may now enroll with Maryland Medicaid through ePREP. Electrologists who have yet to enroll, may do so by completing the form at <https://bitly.ws/3geNU>. Eligible Providers must use CPT code 17380 (Electrolysis Epilation, each 30 minutes - Reimbursement \$90).

Medical Tattooing Services must be approved as a medically necessary Gender-Affirming care service. As of now, only medical breast tattooing is a covered benefit under Gender-Affirming care services. This service must be performed by Tattoo artists that have met Maryland-county specific licensing requirements and have enrolled with Maryland Medicaid through ePREP. Tattoo Artists that have yet to enroll, may do so by completing the form at <https://bitly.ws/3geNU>. Tables 1 and 2 below provide billing codes and reimbursement amounts for Electrolysis and Medical Tattoo Artist services.

For more information, please see the 2024 Professional Services Fee Schedule at <https://bitly.ws/3gfxX>.

Table 1. Electrolysis Codes

Code	Description	Reimbursement Amount	
		Facility Rate	Non Facility Rate
CPT 17999	Other Procedures on the Integumentary System (laser hair removal)	Priced by Report	
CPT 17380	Electrolysis Epilation, Each 30 Minutes	\$90.00	

Table 2. Medical Tattoo Artist Codes

Code	Description	Reimbursement Amount	
		Facility Rate	Non Facility Rate
CPT 11920	Tattooing, intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin, including micropigmentation; 6.0 sq cm or less	\$91.10	\$142.37
CPT 11921	Tattooing, intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin, including micropigmentation; 6.1 to 20.0 sq cm	\$107.22	\$161.06
CPT 11922	Tattooing, intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin, including micropigmentation; each additional 20.0 sq cm, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	\$23.88	\$48.96

Participant Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to receive medically necessary gender affirming hair-removal or medical tattooing services, a participant shall:

- Receive services through a HealthChoice Managed Care Organization or be enrolled in Fee-For Service Medicaid
- Obtain documentation of medical necessity.

Reimbursement to Medicaid-Enrolled Gender-Affirming Care Providers

MCOs are responsible to ensure that their networks include Electrologists and Medical Tattoo Artists. If MCOs do not have sufficient resources to contract with Electrologists or Medical Tattoo Artists, they should issue single-case agreements with those providers.

Please find updated clinical guidance and templates for providers that may be used prior to authorizing gender-affirming treatments attached to this transmittal, as well as a comprehensive CPT code list, and reimbursement rates for new additions to the Maryland Medicaid Fee-for-Service Fee Schedule, for Maryland Medicaid covered gender-affirming treatments:

<https://bit.ly/485Hpti>.

Atypical Provider Enrollment

To enroll as an atypical provider, no NPI is needed; therefore, providers should not submit an NPI when enrolling. Providers who meet all the conditions of participation outlined in this Policy Transmittal are eligible to enroll as an individual or a group “Gender Affirming Treatment - Electrologists and Medical Tattoo Artists Provider” type through ePREP. To enroll as a gender affirming treatment provider, please visit <https://eprep.health.maryland.gov>. Interested providers will also need to complete the “Gender Affirming Treatment - Electrologists and Medical Tattoo Artists” addendum, which can be found at <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/provider/Pages/eprepforms.aspx>.

MCOs should use the atypical NPI convention for processing claims and encounters, which is adding the number 5 to the provider’s nine digit Medicaid ID (e.g., 5XXXXXXXXX). MCOs will need to either configure their systems to accept the atypical NPIs when they process the initial claims or edit encounters to include the atypical NPI before submitting them to MDH.

If you have questions regarding this transmittal, please contact the Program at mdh.medicaidTHEA@maryland.gov.