General Criteria for Non-Surgical Gender Affirming Procedures (WPATH SOC8)

a. Gender incongruence is marked and sustained

b. Meets diagnostic criteria for gender incongruence prior to procedure

c. Demonstrates capacity to consent for the specific gender-affirming procedure

e. Other possible causes of apparent gender incongruence have been identified and excluded

f. Mental health and physical conditions that could negatively impact the outcome of gender-affirming intervention have been assessed, with risks and benefits have been discussed

g. Stable on their gender affirming hormonal treatment regime (which may include at least 6 months of hormone treatment or a longer period if required to achieve the desired surgical result, unless hormone therapy is either not desired or is medically contraindicated).

Criteria for Coverage of Dermal Fillers for Feminizing Lip and Cheek Augmentation

Exclusion Areas: nasolabial folds, under eyes, mandibular angle, jaw, chin

ALL of the following criteria must be met in order for fillers to be considered medically necessary:

a. Meets above general clinical criteria for non-surgical procedures

b. Has not already received surgical augmentation to lip or cheek – including implants, fat grafting, and bone grafting. **Requests for dermal fillers to revise failed surgical procedures will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis*

c. Documented medical contraindication to surgical alternatives or member aversion to surgery/invasive procedures

d. Member has been counseled on risks and benefits, including need for repeat treatment if progression to more permanent facial feminization surgery is contraindicated or undesired

e. If staged augmentation or ongoing treatment without progression to surgery is intended, detailed treatment plan is documented in initial request, including suggested interval for maintenance treatment if progression to surgery is not intended **Please see guidance for acceptable treatment intervals*

f. Documentation includes justification of requested filler volumes, and detailed plan for how much of total volume requested will be used at each injection site and treatment area - a face map must be included **Please see guidance for printable example. Any face map may be used*

g. Body dysmorphia has been excluded as a possible cause for desire for augmentation, and requests conform to accepted procedural standards for feminizing lip and cheek augmentation **Please see guidance for specific information on feminizing filler techniques, and excluding body dysmorphia*

Coverage Guidance Summary Table			
FDA-Approved Filler Brand	**Appropriate Site**	**Acceptable Interval**	**Typical Volume**
Restylane Lyft	Cheek	12-24 months	1-3mL per cheek
Restylane Contour	Cheek	12-24 months	1-3mL per cheek
Juvederm Voluma XC	Cheek	12-24 months	1-3mL per cheek
Revanesse Versa Lips	Lip	6-24 months	1-1.5mL
Juvederm Ultra	Lip	6-24 months	1-1.5mL
Juvederm Volbella	Lip	6-24 months	1-1.5mL
Restylane-L	Lip	6-24 months	1-1.5mL
Restylane Kysse	Lip	6-24 months	1-1.5mL

(Keramidas 2021, Wu 2023)

Guidance for Lip and Cheek Augmentation with Dermal Fillers for Facial Feminization

Dermal fillers may be covered as a non-surgical alternative for facial feminization – specifically lip augmentation and cheek augmentation. All requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Fillers used for the purposes of anti-aging, cosmesis, or to increase the result of a prior surgery (e.g. increase lip size or cheek size after feminizing surgery) are not considered medically necessary.

As fillers are temporary and reversible, fillers make an ideal intervention for members unsure about proceeding with facial feminization surgery to test the result (Viscomi 2022, Galbraith 2023). Fillers are suitable for use on the midface for cheek augmentation, and last up to 24 months (Whitehead 2019, Trinh 2021). Guidance is available in the literature on appropriate filler selection and volumes for the midface:

"Restylane Lyft, Restylane Contour, and Juvederm Voluma XC have FDA approval to be used in the midface. Radiesse (1) is also commonly used to enhance the midface, though it is not FDA-approved for this purpose. HA and calcium hydroxyapatite fillers should first be injected more deeply onto the bone and into the deep facial fat compartments followed by a layered injection, usually with a cannula, to produce volume in the more superficial fat pads of the face. Product is injected in the cheeks at multiple different layers including, the subdermal, subcutaneous, and supraperiosteal levels. Amounts ranging from 1 to 3cc per side have been reported with higher volumes injected for greater cheek volume loss"

(Wu 2023)

Guidance is also available in the literature on best injection techniques to achieve feminizing results (De Boulle 2021, Trinh 2021, Viscomi 2022)

Filler is a safe and effective treatment to augment the lips, with results that last months to years (Dayan 2015, Stojanovic 2019, Czumbel 2021, Goel 2021). Filler can be used as a non-surgical alternative to feminize the lips (De Boulle 2021, Viscomi 2022). Guidance is available on appropriate filler selection and volumes:

"Women have greater vermillion show in both the upper and the lower lips, but the total length of the upper lip is shorter in women than in men. In addition, feminine lips are characterized by greater anterior projection of the vermillion of the upper and lower lips. In both genders, the upper lip should have less volume and vermillion show than the lower lip. Common techniques for lip augmentation include outlining the vermillion to highlight it and vertical tenting to increase volume and provide more red lip show. Of note, it is important not to inject past the wet–dry border of the lip and to place the filler in the submucosal layer, superficial to the orbicularis oris muscle. When performing lip augmentation, HA fillers are preferred. Revanesse Versa Lips, Juvederm Ultra, Juvederm Volbella, Restylane-L, and Restylane Kysse are all FDA-approved for lip augmentation."

(Wu 2023)

Authorization requests for members not planning to progress from filler to surgery should include detailed longitudinal treatment plans including a reasonable recommendation for the interval of maintenance injections. As fillers last longer in the midface, requests for intervals under 12 months are unlikely to be approved. Filler requests for lip or cheek augmentation at an interval under 6 months are never considered medically necessary.

Guidance: Body Dysmorphia and Gender Dysphoria

As part of the evaluation for medical necessity of gender affirming procedures, body dysmorphia must be excluded. The DSM5 defines body dysmorphia by four criteria, listed below:

(1) Preoccupation with one or more perceived defects or flaws in physical appearance that are not observable or appear slight to others.

(2) At some point during the course of the disorder, the individual has performed repetitive behaviors (e.g., mirror checking, excessive grooming, skin picking, reassurance seeking) or mental acts (e.g., comparing his or her appearance with that of others) in response to the appearance concerns.

(3) The preoccupation causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other areas of functioning.

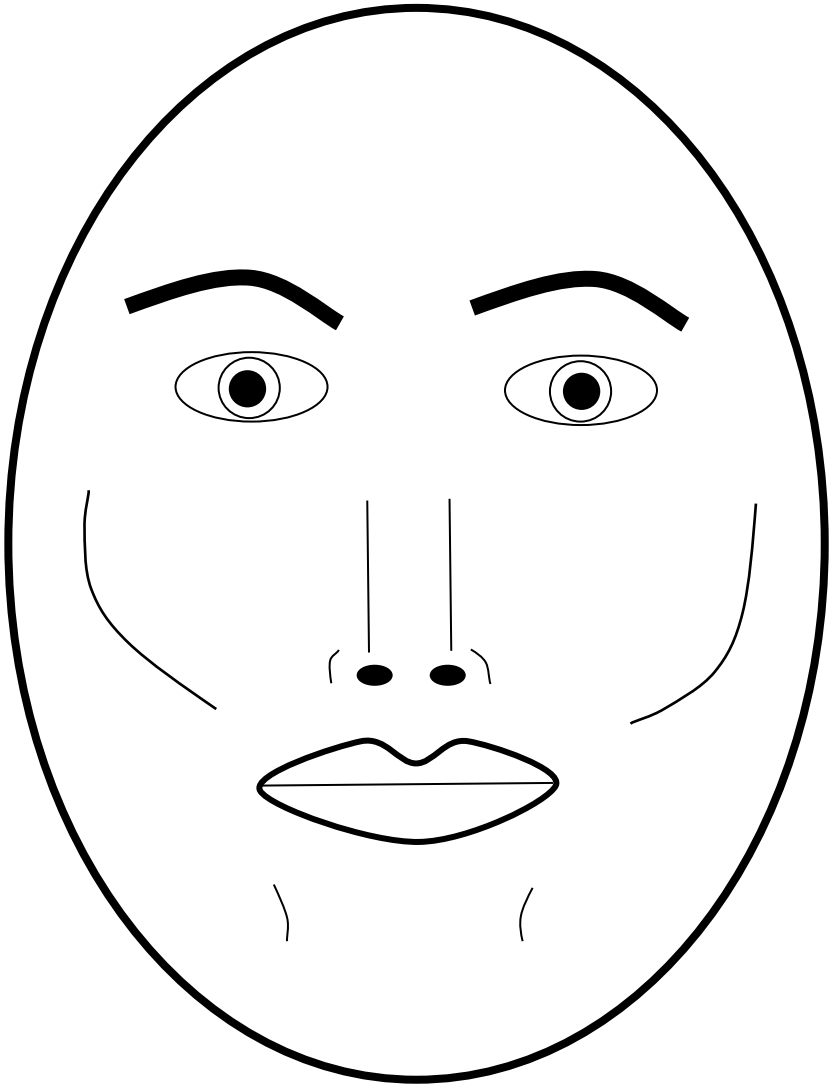
(4) The appearance preoccupation is not better explained by concerns with body fat or weight in an individual whose symptoms meet diagnostic criteria for an eating disorder.

Letters of support from behavioral health providers should assess for, and exclude, body dysmorphia. Untreated body dysmorphia can worsen mental health and pose unique health risks during the surgical gender affirmation process.

Acceptable CPT Codes	
99070	MISCELLANEOUS MEDICAL SERVICES
11950	SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION OF FILLING MATERIAL (EG, COLLAGEN); 1 CC OR LESS
11951	SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION OF FILLING MATERIAL (EG, COLLAGEN); 1.1 TO 5.0 CC
11952	SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION OF FILLING MATERIAL (EG, COLLAGEN); 5.1 TO 10.0 CC
11954	SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION OF FILLING MATERIAL (EG, COLLAGEN); OVER 10.0 CC
J3490	UNCLASSIFIED DRUGS ADMINISTERED BY INJECTION

**Please specify filler brand in box 19*

Printable Sample Face Map – Next Page



Patient Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Service: _____

Filler Brand/Volume: _____

Follow-Up: _____

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