



Camisole, Breast Prosthesis, and Prosthetic Bra Information

All women receiving a mastectomy at Kaiser Permanente are entitled to camisoles, breast prostheses, and prosthetic bras.

- To learn what your coverage is, call Member Services: 1-800-464-4000.
- Most plans cover 80% with members paying the remaining 20%. Supplemental coverage may pay more. The vendor will collect 20% at the time of purchase, if applicable.
- Camisoles, breast prostheses, and prosthetic bras are **not** available at Kaiser Permanente. Ask your Breast Care Coordinator for a list of approved breast prosthesis vendors. You will need to get authorization for the items needed **prior** to being fitted. This is done through your doctor or the Breast Care Coordinator. You may visit any or all of these shops prior to deciding on which breast prostheses are right for you.
- If you go to an unauthorized vendor, Kaiser Permanente will not reimburse you for your expenses.

The following items are covered:

1. Camisoles: Coverage provides for two (2) camisoles for a woman who has had a mastectomy. This will allow you to feel free to go out in public and not feel self-conscious until you are ready to be fitted for your prosthesis. It is best to try to get this garment before your surgery.
2. Prostheses: Coverage provides for one prosthesis every two (2) years or when medically necessary (e.g. weight loss/gain, changes in breast size, shape etc.). Prostheses are also available for women who have had a lumpectomy and experience a loss of symmetry.
3. Bras or Skin Supports: Coverage provides for three (3) bras per year when needed to hold breast prostheses. Skin supports may be substituted for bras if patient desires attachable prosthesis.

What is a camisole and why should I get one?

Camisoles are soft under garments that can be worn immediately following surgery until you are ready to be fitted for a prosthesis or have reconstruction. They come with soft breast forms and have a pocket that can hold drains.

When should I be fitted for a prosthesis and bra?

It is recommended to wait approximately 6 weeks after your surgery, after all swelling is gone and your incision is healed. If you are unsure, check with your surgeon or oncologist. In the meantime, you can wear your camisole.

How do I arrange for Kaiser Permanente to pay for these products?

All covered products require a physician prescription to Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and DME authorization to the vendor. Your physician or the Breast Care Coordinator can help facilitate this. If you need assistance in this process, you may call the Breast Care Coordinator at 925-295-4318.

For all future prosthesis and bra reorders, please contact DME at 1-877-317-6230, option 2 (toll free).

Tips for shopping for a prosthesis:

- Bring a sweater or fitted blouse/shirt (that will hug your chest) with you to the fitting so that you can see a clear outline of your bosom through your clothes.
- Try on several different forms before you buy. It should look good *and* feel comfortable.
- You may be able to wear the same bra you have always worn. Bring your favorite bras to your fitting to see how they hold the prosthesis. A pocket can be sewn into your bra. Check with the vendor to see if they can assist you with this.
- Bathing suits and swim forms are also available, but are not covered by your Kaiser Permanente health plan.

This information is not intended to diagnose health problems or to take the place of medical advice or care you receive from your physician or other health care professional. If you have persistent health problems, or if you have additional questions, please consult with your doctor.