Frequently Asked Questions:

RE: Phalloplasty

Q: Are you creating a waitlist for this surgery now that it has been approved by the Ministry of Health for coverage?

A: Yes

Q: How is the waitlist being complied?

A: The Ministry of Health has been reviewing patient files and are placing individuals on the waitlist from the date that their referral requesting the surgery was received by the Ministry from their general practitioner or referring physician.

Q: What if an individual would like to be added to the waitlist?

A: If you wish to be added to the waitlist, then you must get your GP to refer you to the ministry, requesting assessment for phalloplasty surgery. You will be added to the waitlist according to the date your referral is received at the ministry.

Q: How can I find out if I am on the waitlist? What number am I on the wait list?

A: You can contact Bronwen Jollymore at: Bronwen.jollymore@gov.bc.ca or by phone at: 250-952-3190. As the wait list is still being complied, Bronwen will be able to give you an idea of where you are on the list but not an exact number.

Q: Is the electrolysis of the donor skin site covered as part of the surgery?

A: No, as this would be considered a cosmetic procedure the cost would be the responsibility of the patient. Dr. Brassard (the surgeon who will be performing the surgery) requests that patients undergo electrolysis prior to surgery.

Q: As the surgery is not performed in BC, is travel and accommodation covered?

A: No, the Medical Services Plan is governed by the *Medicare Protection Act* and Regulations. This legislation stipulates that only those services considered medically necessary may be insured by MSP (i.e. physician services). Travel and accommodation costs would be the responsibility of the patient.

If the patient is on disability then the Ministry of Social Development may be able to assist with these costs. <http://www.gov.bc.ca/hsd/>

Hope Air maybe able to assist some individuals with travel costs. http://www.hopeair.org/

Q: Are there any additional fees that the individual is responsible for?

A: Dr. Pierre Brassard’s clinic requires patients to stay in a residential care facility for a few days following the surgery. This cost will be the responsibility of the patient.

Q: What if I want metaoidiplasty surgery instead?

A: Metaoidiplasty will be covered as well. Patients who have requested it or would like to request it will need to get a referral and will be added to the wait list in order of the date the referral was received by the ministry.

Q: I have seen the assessor/s and have been approved for SRS already; do I have to see them again to be approved for phalloplasty?

A: Yes

Q: What if I have seen the assessors and they have already recommended me for phalloplasty surgery for when it becomes available?

A: This would depend on the date you had last seen the assessors. We are only able to approve and pay for five surgeries a year, therefore reassessment maybe necessary to confirm you are still ready to undergo surgery. .If you are asked to see the assessors again, the decision will be made with your safety as a patient in mind.

Q: If I have already had phalloplasty surgery, now that is it covered by the Ministry, can I be reimbursed?

A: No, the Ministry does not reimburse for services that were previously not a benefit (insured) by the Medical Services Plan.