

Breast reconstruction surgery

1. Statement

Queensland Health is committed to providing timely, equitable and quality care for patients within a fiscally responsible environment. Breast reconstruction surgery following mastectomy for breast cancer is evidenced to improve psychological well-beingⁱ, body image, self-esteem and enhance quality of lifeⁱⁱ, whilst also being clinically indicated for other medical conditions, including congenital abnormalities. This policy clearly defines patient suitability guidelines and access criteria to enable consistency in care and equitable access to services for breast reconstruction surgery.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Support equitable access to breast reconstruction surgery
- Enable consistency in the scope of breast reconstruction surgery services provided within public hospitals
- Support quality and fiscally responsible care.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all employees, contractors and consultants within the Department of Health divisions, Hospital and Health Services and commercialised business units involved directly or indirectly in the provision of care.

4. Principles

- **Equity** - services provided and supported within public health facilities are consistent.
- **Clarity** – access guidelines are clearly defined to support equitable provision of services.
- **Timely** – services are provided in a timely manner.
- **Quality** – care is patient-centred and based on best-practice.
- **Fiscally responsible** – services are prioritised to ensure resources are allocated to those with the greatest health benefit or health need.

5. Requirements

Breast reconstruction surgery in Queensland public hospitals will be managed in accordance with the corresponding *Breast Reconstruction Surgery Standard*.

6. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander considerations

Queensland public hospital services and staff recognise and commit to the respect, understanding and application of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural values, principles, differences and needs when caring for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander patients.

Each individual HHS is responsible for achieving successful provision of culturally appropriate services to and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and their communities within the respective HHS catchment.

Equally, the respect and acknowledgement extended to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be extended to all participants, irrespective of ethnic background or membership of community group.

7. Legislation

- Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011

8. Supporting documents

8.1.1 Authorising standard

- Breast Reconstruction Surgery Standard

8.1.2 Procedures, guidelines and protocols

- Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC)
- EviQ risk management guidelines
- National Elective Surgery Urgency Categorisation Guideline

Version Control

Version	Date	Comments
1.0	06 July 2018	New Policy

ⁱ Ng, S.K., Hare, R.M., Kuang, R.J., Smith, K.M., Brown, B.J., & Hunter-Smith, D.J. 2016. Breast reconstruction post mastectomy: patient satisfaction and decision making. *Breast Surgery*, 76(6), 640-644. doi:10.1097/SAP.0000000000000242

ⁱⁱ Cancer Australia. 2017. *Making decisions about breast reconstruction*. Retrieved from <https://breast-cancer.canceraustralia.gov.au/treatment/surgery/breast-reconstruction/deciding-about-breast-reconstruction>