

Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 03/05/24
Approved by: Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	Date Approved: 03/05/24
Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 1 of 11

PURPOSE:

The intent of this clinical policy is to ensure services are medically necessary.

Please refer to the member’s benefit document for specific information. To the extent there is any inconsistency between this policy and the terms of the member’s benefit plan or certificate of coverage, the terms of the member’s benefit plan document will govern.

POLICY:

Benefits must be available for health care services. Health care services must be ordered by a provider. Health care services must be medically necessary, applicable conservative treatments must have been tried, and the most cost-effective alternative must be requested for coverage consideration.

GUIDELINES:

Medical Necessity Criteria - Must satisfy I, and any of II – IV

- I. Member meets all of the following: A – C
 - A. Persistent, well-documented *gender dysphoria*; and
 - B. The capacity to make a fully informed decision and to give consent for treatment; and
 - C. A favorable psychosocial-behavioral evaluation to provide screening and identification of risk factors or potential postoperative challenges.

- II. Requests for breast/chest and genital gender reassignment surgery - the member must satisfy A or B, and C
 - A. Breast or chest gender reassignment surgery - At least 1 referral letter from a *qualified mental health professional*. The referral letter must address all of the following: 1 - 6
 - 1. The member’s general identifying characteristics; and
 - 2. Results of the member’s psychosocial assessment, including any diagnoses; and
 - 3. The duration of the mental health professional’s relationship with the member, including the type of evaluation and therapy or counseling administered to date; and
 - 4. An explanation that the criteria for surgery have been met and a brief description of the clinical rationale for supporting the member’s request for surgery; and
 - 5. A statement about the fact that informed consent has been obtained from the member; and
 - 6. A statement that the mental health professional is available for coordination of care and welcomes a phone call to establish this.

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Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 2 of 11

- B. Genital gender reassignment surgery - the member must have all of the following: 1 – 4
1. Member is at least 18 years of age (age of majority); and
 2. At least 2 referral letters from *qualified mental health professionals*. If the first referral is from the member's psychotherapist, the second referral should be from a *qualified mental health professional* that has only had an evaluative role with the member. Two separate letters, or one letter signed by both (if practicing within the same clinic) may be sent. Each referral letter must address all of the following: a – f
 - a. The member's general identifying characteristics; and
 - b. Results of the member's psychosocial assessment, including any diagnoses; and
 - c. The duration of the mental health professional's relationship with the member, including the type of evaluation and therapy or counseling administered to date; and
 - d. An explanation that the criteria for surgery have been met and a brief description of the clinical rationale for supporting the member's request for surgery; and
 - e. A statement about the fact that informed consent has been obtained from the member; and
 - f. A statement that the mental health professional is available for coordination of care and welcomes a phone call to establish this.
 3. Completed at least 12 continuous months of living in a gender role that is congruent with their gender identity (such as, but not limited to, consistently presenting in the member's desired gender role on a day-to-day basis and across all settings of life; coming out to partners, family, friends, and community members; and acquiring legal name and/or gender marker change); and
 4. Completed at least 12 continuous months of cross-sex hormone therapy as appropriate to the member's gender goals (unless hormones are not clinically indicated).
- C. When the above criteria indications are met, the following procedures are medically necessary
1. Bilateral mastectomy or breast reduction
 2. Breast augmentation with breast implants or fat transfer
 3. Clitoroplasty (creation of clitoris)
 4. Hysterectomy (removal of uterus)
 5. Labiaplasty (creation of labia)
 6. Laser or electrolysis hair removal in advance of genital reconstruction prescribed by a physician
 7. Metoidioplasty (creation of penis, using clitoris)
 8. Orchiectomy (removal of testicles)
 9. Penectomy (removal of penis)
 10. Penile prosthesis
 11. Phalloplasty (creation of penis)
 12. Salpingo-oophorectomy (removal of fallopian tubes and ovaries)
 13. Scrotoplasty (creation of scrotum)
 14. Testicular prostheses

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Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 3 of 11

15. Urethroplasty (reconstruction of female urethra)
16. Urethroplasty (reconstruction of male urethra)
17. Vaginectomy (removal of vagina)
18. Vaginoplasty (creation of vagina)
19. Vulvectomy (removal of vulva)

- III. Requests for other gender reassignment surgical/therapy procedures – any of the following: A – C
 - A. Thyroid cartilage reduction/reduction thyroid chondroplasty/trachea shave (removal or reduction of the Adam’s apple); or
 - B. Voice lessons and voice therapy subject to plan limits for rehabilitative therapy – must meet all of the following: 1 – 3
 1. Documentation supports that there is an expectation that improvement is anticipated in a clinically reasonable time frame; and
 2. Proposed treatment plan is initiated by a licensed speech/language pathologist and must include measurable, functional goals; and
 3. Proposed treatment plan has projected time frames for care and clear criteria for discharge from speech therapy services.
 - C. Voice modification surgery (eg, laryngoplasty, glottoplasty or shortening of the vocal cords) – must satisfy 1, and 2 if applicable
 1. Documentation of presurgical voice lessons and/or therapy; and
 2. For voice masculinization, member completed at least 6 continuous months of cross-sex hormone therapy.

- IV. Requests for procedures that are excluded as cosmetic must have documentation from a *qualified mental health professional* supporting that the member’s clinical condition meets the diagnostic criteria for a DSM mental disorder diagnosis (eg, *gender dysphoria*) and is causing clinically significant distress or impairment as evidenced by validated scales and measures - must satisfy the following: A or B, and C
 - A. Clinically significant distress is defined as a score of 2 standard deviations (SD) from the mean, by a disorder-specific symptom rating scale such as the Appearance Anxiety Inventory; or
 - B. Clinically significant impairment is defined as a World Health Organization Disability Schedule (WHODAS) General Disability Score (GDS) of 2.6 using the current 0-4 scoring convention. (See Attachment A); and
 - C. Where applicable, there must be documentation that the member has not responded, is intolerant to, or a poor candidate for other appropriate or conservative treatments for the member’s clinical condition (eg, psychotherapy).

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Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 4 of 11

EXCLUSIONS (not limited to):

Refer to member's Certificate of Coverage or Summary Plan Description.

The following procedures/treatments are generally considered *cosmetic* and not medically necessary when performed as part of treatment for gender dysphoria, including but not limited to:

- Blepharoplasty
- Blepharoptosis and brow lift
- Body contouring (eg, fat transfer, lipoplasty, panniculectomy)
- Calf implants
- Cheek, chin and nose implants
- Face/forehead lift and/or neck tightening
- Facial bone remodeling for facial feminization
- Hair removal or replacement by any means, eg, laser, electrolysis, medications, that is not related to genital reconstruction
- Lip augmentation
- Lip reduction
- Liposuction or removal of fat deposits by any means, such as but not limited to submental lipectomy, suction assisted lipectomy (does not include post-mastectomy), deoxycholic acid injection (Kybella)
- Pectoral implants for chest masculinization
- Rhinoplasty
- Wrinkle (rhytid) treatment or any treatment to improve the appearance of the skin, such as but not limited to, botulinum toxin, chemical peels, hyaluronic acid, injectable soft tissue fillers/filling material, eg, collagen (does not include for incontinence), laser, microdermabrasion, rhytidectomy (face-lift) topical retinoids

DEFINITIONS:

Cosmetic:

Services and procedures that improve physical appearance but do not correct or improve a physiological function and are not medically necessary.

Gender dysphoria or gender identity disorder

Is defined as evidence of a strong and persistent cross-gender identification, which is the desire to be, or the insistence that one is of the other gender. Persons with this disorder experience a sense of discomfort and inappropriateness regarding their anatomic or genetic sexual characteristics.

Gender reassignment

Refers to the hormonal and surgical reassignment/treatment of gender dysphoric persons.

Qualified mental health professional:

The following are the minimum credentials for mental health professionals who work with adults presenting with gender dysphoria:

- A master's degree or its equivalent in a clinical behavioral science field
- Competence in using the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and/or the International Classification of Diseases for diagnostic purposes
- Ability to recognize and diagnose co-existing mental health concerns and to distinguish these from gender dysphoria
- Documented supervised training and competence in psychotherapy or counseling

Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 03/05/24
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Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 5 of 11

- Knowledge about gender nonconforming identities and expressions, and the assessment and treatment of gender dysphoria
- Continuing education in assessment and treatment of gender dysphoria

The following are desired credentials but are not required:

- Cultural competence to facilitate their work with transsexual, transgender, and gender nonconforming clients, eg, knowledgeable about community, advocacy and public policy issues relevant to these clients and their families
- Knowledge about sexuality, sexual health concerns, and the assessment and treatment of sexual disorders

BACKGROUND:

Gender dysphoria or gender identity disorder is not the same condition that occurs in patients suffering from genetic or hormonal abnormalities, or ambiguous genitalia.

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Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 6 of 11

Prior Authorization: Yes, per network provider agreement

CODING:

When billed with the following ICD-10 diagnosis codes:

- F64.0 Transsexualism
- F64.1 Dual role transvestism
- F64.2 Gender identify disorder of childhood
- F64.8 Other gender identity disorders
- F64.9 Gender identify disorder, unspecified
- Z87.890 Personal history of sex reassignment status

CPT®

- 14000 Adjacent tissue transfer or rearrangement, trunk; defect 10 sq cm or less
- 14001 Adjacent tissue transfer or rearrangement, trunk; defect 10.1 sq cm to 30.0 sq cm
- 14041 Adjacent tissue transfer or rearrangement, forehead, cheeks, chin, mouth, neck, axillae, genitalia, hands and/or feet; defect 10.1 sq cm to 30.0 sq cm
- 15734 Muscle, myocutaneous, or fasciocutaneous flap; trunk
- 15738 Muscle, myocutaneous, or fasciocutaneous flap; lower extremity
- 15750 Flap; neurovascular pedicle
- 15757 Free skin flap with microvascular anastomosis
- 15758 Free fascial flap with microvascular anastomosis
- 15769 Grafting of autologous soft tissue, other, harvested by direct excision (e.g., fat, dermis, fascia)
- 15771 Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to trunk, breasts, scalp, arms, and/or legs; 50 cc or less injectate
- 15772 Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to trunk, breasts, scalp, arms, and/or legs; each additional 50 cc injectate, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
- 15773 Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to face, eyelids, mouth, neck, ears, orbits, genitalia, hands, and/or feet; 25 cc or less injectate
- 15774 Grafting of autologous fat harvested by liposuction technique to face, eyelids, mouth, neck, ears, orbits, genitalia, hands, and/or feet; each additional 25 cc injectate, or part thereof (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
- 19303 Mastectomy, simple, complete
- 19325 Breast augmentation with implant
- 19350 Nipple/areola reconstruction
- 53410 Urethroplasty, 1-stage reconstruction of male anterior urethra
- 53430 Urethroplasty, reconstruction of female urethra
- 54125 Amputation of penis; complete
- 54400 Insertion of penile prosthesis; non-inflatable
- 54401 Insertion of penile prosthesis; inflatable
- 54405 Insertion of multi-component, inflatable penile prosthesis, including placement of pump, cylinders, and reservoir
- 54406 Removal of all components of a multi-component, inflatable penis prosthesis without replacement of prosthesis
- 54408 Repair of components of a multi-component, inflatable penile prosthesis
- 54410 Removal and replacement of all components of a multi-component, inflatable penile prosthesis at the same operative session

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Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 7 of 11

- 54411 Removal and replacement of all components of a multi-component inflatable penile prosthesis through an infected field at the same operative session, including irrigation and debridement of the infected tissue
- 54415 Removal of non-inflatable (semi-rigid) or inflatable (self-contained) penile prosthesis without replacement of prosthesis
- 54416 Removal and replacement of non-inflatable (semi-rigid) or inflatable (self-contained) penile prosthesis at the same operative session
- 54417 Removal and replacement of all components of a non-inflatable (semi-rigid) or inflatable (self-contained) penile prosthesis through an infected field at the same operative session, including irrigation and debridement of the infected tissue
- 54520 Orchiectomy, simple (including subcapsular), with or without testicular prosthesis, scrotal or inguinal approach
- 54660 Insertion of testicular prosthesis (separate procedure)
- 54690 Laparoscopic, surgical; orchiectomy
- 55175 Scrotoplasty; simple
- 55180 Scrotoplasty; complicated
- 55970 Intersex surgery; male to female (a series of staged procedures that includes male genitalia removal, penile dissection, urethral transposition, creation of vagina and labia with stent placement)
- 55980 Intersex surgery; female to male (a series of stated procedures that includes penis and scrotum formation by graft, and prosthesis placement)
- 56625 Vulvectomy simple; complete
- 56800 Plastic repair of introitus
- 56805 Clitoroplasty for intersex state
- 57110 Vaginectomy, complete removal of vaginal wall
- 57335 Vaginoplasty for intersex state
- 58150 Total abdominal hysterectomy (corpus and cervix), with or without removal of tube(s), with or without removal of ovary(s)
- 58180 Supracervical abdominal hysterectomy (subtotal) hysterectomy), with or without removal of tubes, with or without removal of ovary(s)
- 58260 Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250g or less
- 58262 Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250g or less; with removal of tubes, and or ovary(s)
- 58290 Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250g
- 58291 Vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
- 58541 Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus 250g or less\
- 58542 Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus 250g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
- 58543 Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250g
- 58544 Laparoscopy, surgical, supracervical hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
- 58550 Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250g or less
- 58552 Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus 250g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
- 58553 Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250g
- 58554 Laparoscopy, surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
- 58570 Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus 250g or less
- 58571 Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus 250g or less; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
- 58572 Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250g

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Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 8 of 11

58573 Laparoscopy, surgical, with total hysterectomy, for uterus greater than 250g; with removal of tube(s) and/or ovary(s)
 58661 Laparoscopy, surgical; with removal of adnexal structures (partial or totally oophorectomy and/or salpingectomy)
 58720 Salpingo-oophorectomy, complete or partial, unilateral or bilateral (separate procedure)
 58940 Oophorectomy, partial or total, unilateral or bilateral
 64856 Suture of major peripheral nerve, arm or leg, except sciatic; including transposition
 64892 Nerve graft (includes obtaining graft), single strand, arm or leg; up to 4cm length
 64896 Nerve graft (includes obtaining graft), multiple strands (cable), hand or foot; more than 4cm length
 92507 Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder; individual
 92508 Treatment of speech, language, voice, communication, and/or auditory processing disorder; group, 2 or more individuals

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Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 9 of 11

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Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 03/05/24
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Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 10 of 11

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Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 03/05/24
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Medical Criteria Document: Gender Reassignment, Surgical Treatment for Gender Dysphoria	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 09/28/23
Reference #: MC/G019	Page: 11 of 11

Attachment A

WHODAS 2.0, 12-items

12-item World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule

In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in. . .

(0) None. (1) Mild. (2) Moderate. (3) Severe. (4) Extreme/Cannot do.

1. Standing for long periods such as 30 minutes?
2. Taking care of your household responsibilities?
3. Learning a new task, for example, learning how to get to a new place?
4. How much of a problem did you have in joining in community activities (for example, festivities, religious or other activities) in the same way as anyone else can?
5. How much have you been emotionally affected by your health problems?
6. Concentrating on doing something for ten minutes?
7. Walking a long distance such as a kilometre (or equivalent)?
8. Washing your whole body?
9. Getting dressed?
10. Dealing with people you do not know?
11. Maintaining a friendship?
12. Your day-to-day work?

The World Health Organisation Disability Assessment Schedule, WHODAS 2.0, 12 items, can be found at:

[https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/international-classification-of-functioning-disability-and-health/who-disability-assessment-schedule#:~:text=Scoring&text=Simple%3A%20the%20scores%20assigned%20to,\(4\)%20%E2%80%93%20are%20summed.](https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/international-classification-of-functioning-disability-and-health/who-disability-assessment-schedule#:~:text=Scoring&text=Simple%3A%20the%20scores%20assigned%20to,(4)%20%E2%80%93%20are%20summed.)

General Disability Score

- < 1.0 = Little or no impairment
- 1.0 to 1.9 = Mild
- 2.0 to 2.9 = Moderate
- 3.0 to 3.9 = Severe
- 4.0 = Extreme or cannot do

Nondiscrimination & Language Access Policy

Aspirus Health Plan, Inc. complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. *We* do not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

We will:

Provide free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- Qualified sign language interpreters
- Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

Provide free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:

- Qualified interpreters
- Information written in other languages

If *you* need these services, contact *us* at the phone number shown on the inside cover of this *contract*, *your* id card, or aspirushealthplan.com.

If *you* believe that *we* have failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, *you* can file a grievance with:

Nondiscrimination Grievance Coordinator
Aspirus Health Plan, Inc.
PO Box 1062
Minneapolis, MN 55440
Phone: 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711)
Fax: 763.847.4010
Email: customerservice@aspirushealthplan.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If *you* need help filing a grievance, the Nondiscrimination Grievance Coordinator is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

Language Assistance Services

Albanian: KUJDES: Nëse flitni shqip, për ju ka në dispozicion shërbime të asistencës gjuhësore, pa pagesë. Telefononi në 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

Arabic: تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية متاحة لك مجاناً. اتصل بن اعلى رقم الهاتف 1.866.631.5404 (رقم هاتف الصم والبك : 711)

French: ATTENTION : Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelezle 1.866.631.5404 (ATS : 711).

German: ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

Hindi: _यान द_ : य_द आप िहंदी बोलते ह_ तो आपके िलए मु_त म_ भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपल_ध ह_। 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711) पर कॉल कर_।

Hmong: LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

Korean: 주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711)번으로 전화해 주십시오.

Polish: UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

Russian: ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1.866.631.5404 (телетайп: 711).

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

Tagalog: PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nangwalang bayad. Tumawag sa 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711)

Traditional Chinese: 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1.866.631.5404 (TTY:711)。

Vietnamese: CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

Pennsylvania Dutch: Wann du Deitsch (Pennsylvania German / Dutch) schwetzsch, kannscht du mitaus Koschte ebbergricke, ass dihr helft mit die englisch Schprooch. Ruf selli Nummer uff: Call 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

Lao: ໄປ່ດຊາຍ: ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໄດຍບໍ່ເສັຽຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທ 1.866.631.5404 (TTY:711).