



# women's health and cancer rights act of 1998

## your rights after a mastectomy

If you have had a mastectomy or expect to have one, you may be entitled to special rights under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA). The WHCRA requires health plans to provide certain benefits for reconstructive surgery in connection with a mastectomy.

Consistent with the WHCRA, if you have a mastectomy and elect reconstructive surgery in connection with the mastectomy, coverage is provided for all of the following:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy is performed.
- Reconstruction and surgery of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance.
- Prostheses.
- Treatment remedies for physical complications during all stages of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

You may need to contact your medical plan or your HMO before any reconstructive surgery to make sure you qualify for full benefits.