

## **A Guide to Accessing Gender Affirming Surgery**

- 1. Receive an evaluation from 2 medical providers (Primary Care, Mental Health).**
  - This will assess readiness to undergo gender affirming procedures.
  - 2 letters in support of gender affirming procedure should be requested at this time.
  
- 2. Obtain 2 letters in support of requested procedure.**
  - Letters must be specific to requested procedure and cannot be combined with other requests.
  - See Letter of Support guidance sheet.
  
- 3. Set-up consultation/s for GAS.**
  - Members can self-refer to a surgeon.
  - Listing of in-network providers can be requested from Amida Care Member Services or the Gender Identity Support Team (GIST), or found on the Amida Care website.
  
- 4. Prepare for your consultation.**
  - Prepare questions and bring a friend if desired.
  - See resource from Callen Lorde (on the Amida Care website).
  
- 5. Bring your letters of support to your consultation.**
  - Provide copies of your letters to the surgeon.
  - Always keep the originals for yourself.
  
- 6. Obtain Prior Authorization.**
  - After your consultation and before surgery, the provider's office will submit a request for prior authorization to Amida Care.
  - This request will include clinical notes and supporting letters for Amida Care to review. Please note, all support letters must be sent by the surgeon's office.

**For additional information, please see Amida Care Clinical Guidelines and Coverage Criteria for the Treatment of Gender Dysphoria or contact the Gender Identity Support Team (GIST) at 646-757-7982; or email [GIST@amidacareny.org](mailto:GIST@amidacareny.org)**



#### **7. Prior Authorization:**

- Amida Care receives the request for prior authorization.
- Amida Care will make a determination on your request within 3 business days once all required documentation is received and meets guidelines. This determination may be approved, denied, or additional information might be requested.
- If your letters do not meet criteria, Amida Care will notify your provider's office.
- Amida Care will contact you once a determination (approval, partial approval, or denial) has been made.

#### **8. Aftercare:**

- Please let your surgeon or discharge planner know if you need home care nursing services or short-term inpatient rehab following surgery. Requests for aftercare must be submitted by the surgeon.

#### **9. Transportation:**

- Medicaid will pay for your transportation home from surgery.
- Medicaid will pay for your post op appointment transportation if medically necessary.
- Medicaid will not pay for your transportation the day of the surgery.
- There is additional guidance on transportation available on the Amida Care website.

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