



To Whom It May Concern,

On October 21, 1998, a new federal law, the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act, went into effect. This law requires group health plans that provide coverage for mastectomies to also cover reconstructive surgery and prostheses following mastectomies.

As the Act requires, insurance carriers were to send notification of the law's provisions. The law mandates that a member receiving benefits for a medically necessary mastectomy who elects breast reconstruction after the mastectomy, will also receive coverage for:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed.
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a Symmetrical appearance
- Prostheses
- Treatment of physical complications of all stages of mastectomy, ***including Lymphedemas***

This coverage will be provided in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, and will be subject to the same annual deductibles and coinsurance provisions that apply for the mastectomy.

All of us at Bellisse encourage every health care provider and patient to submit their insurance claims concerning breast cancer related lymphedemas and related treatment protocols. We would also like to recognize and thank those leaders in the health insurance field like Aetna who are actively helping to bring care and resources to this patient population in accordance to the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998.

"Your Rights After A Mastectomy" brochures can be ordered at no charge to you by calling the US Dept. of Labor and Health and Human Services at 1-866-444-3272.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this notice, please visit the Bellisse web site www.bellisse.com, where we have a link to the government site detailing the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act.

Sincerely,