



Oregon Health Plan / Medicaid Services - Sterilization

Tubal ligation and vasectomy services (sterilization) have been covered under the Oregon Health Plan since 1994. There has been no recent change in the policies governing these two procedures.

In order to receive this or any other service, Oregon Health Plan members must be at the legal age of consent as set by statute for the procedure. Providers cannot give the service to anyone under the age of consent. The age of consent in Oregon as set by statute for most medical care, including tubal ligations and vasectomies, is 15 years. Statutes guiding the age of consent can be found here:

http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/lawsstatutes/2011ors109.html

(See 109.640)

Before performing the procedure, under state and federal statute providers must receive a written form showing informed consent by the patient. Providers must also provide specific information to the patient about procedure, the effect of the procedure including the fact that it is irreversible, information about alternate of family planning, the side effects of the procedure, and other information. Details on the requirements that providers must follow before performing the procedure on patients at any age can be found at:

http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/lawsstatutes/2011ors436.html (See 436.225)

The Oregon Health Plan / Medicaid is a partnership with the federal government. Sterilization services for people 21 and over are funded jointly by state and federal funds. Services for people 15-20 years old are funded by state funds.

This procedure is extremely rare for young people. Records reviews over the past decade show there have been no payments for procedures for people under 17 years old. There have been a less than one a year over the past decade for people 17 years old – both male and female.

For more information about the Oregon Health Plan/ Medicaid, contact: Rebeka Gipson-King, at OHA.Communications@state.or.us

For questions about private health insurance contact: Cheryl Martinis, Interim Communications Director, Insurance Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at Cheryl.L.Martinis@state.or.us