

Gender confirming surgery | Ontario.ca

How to apply for gender confirming surgery (also known as sex reassignment surgery) in Ontario. If you are eligible, this service is covered under OHIP.

As of March 1, you can seek an assessment for surgery from qualified health care providers across the province.

Affirming gender identity

Gender confirming surgery (also known as sex reassignment or gender affirming surgery) does more than change a person's body. It affirms how they think and feel about their own gender and what it means to who they are.

Ontario is funding surgery as an option for people who experience discomfort or distress with their sex or gender at birth.

How to qualify

Ontario funds two types of gender-confirming surgery: genital and chest.

To qualify for funding, you must:

- be assessed and recommended for surgery by either one or two healthcare providers (e.g. a qualified doctor, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, psychologist or registered social worker)
- have a referral for surgery completed and submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care by a physician or nurse practitioner; and
- have the surgery approved by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care **before** the surgery takes place

Approval for genital surgery

To be approved for genital surgery, you'll need:

- **two** assessments recommending surgery (from a qualified doctor, nurse practitioner, registered nurse, psychologist or registered social worker)
 - one of the assessments must be from a doctor or nurse practitioner
 - both assessments must confirm:
 - you have a diagnosis of persistent gender dysphoria
 - have completed 12 continuous months of hormone therapy (unless hormones are not

recommended)

- you have lived 12 continuous months in the gender role you identify with (for genital surgery only)

If you have surgery before getting approval from the ministry, the cost of the surgery will not be covered.

Approval for chest surgery

To be approved for chest surgery you'll need:

- **one** assessment recommending surgery from a qualified doctor or nurse practitioner
 - the assessment must confirm that you:
 - have a diagnosis of persistent gender dysphoria
 - have completed 12 months of continuous hormone therapy with no breast enlargement (unless hormones are not recommended) if you're seeking breast augmentation

After being approved for chest surgery, your family doctor or nurse practitioner can refer you to a specialist who can perform the surgery.

Apply for surgery

To apply for gender confirming surgery, your doctor or nurse practitioner needs to fill out and submit the [application](#) along with the assessments and recommendations for surgery, to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The application is for patients seeking services in Ontario, out of province but within Canada or outside of the country.

Your doctor or nurse practitioner will let you know if your application is approved.

Once you receive approval from the ministry, talk with your health care provider to get ready for the surgery

Additional resources

You can find useful information from organizations, such as:

- Rainbow Health Ontario