

# NYSSPS BRIEF

## Give Kids a Chance – Full Coverage for Congenital Anomalies

In New York, 1 in 38 babies are born with a congenital anomaly. On average, children with congenital anomalies can expect anywhere from three to five surgical procedures throughout their childhood to restore a more normal appearance and function.

Although insurance carriers may provide coverage for the initial procedures, they may resist coverage of the later stage procedures, claiming they are cosmetic and not medically necessary. Denial or delay of these procedures – which by definition are reconstructive – could lead to long-term physical, functional, and psychological injuries.

To a layperson, repair of a congenital anomaly may seem cosmetic in nature. However, reconstructive surgery is performed to treat structures of the body affected aesthetically or functionally by congenital or developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors, or disease. It is generally done to improve function and ability, and may also be performed to achieve a more typical appearance of the affected structure.

Coverage should also be provided for healthcare services that help an individual keep, learn, or improve skills and functioning for daily living. Habilitative services may include physical and occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, and other services for people with disabilities in a variety of inpatient and/or outpatient settings.

### Our Ask:

Amend current insurance law to require all group and individual health plans to cover medically necessary services including habilitative and reconstructive services as a result of congenital anomaly, including inpatient and outpatient services, adjunctive needs and procedures for secondary conditions and follow-up treatment.

Stipulate that such coverage includes services and procedures that repair function or restore any missing body part that is necessary to achieve normal body functioning/appearance.



## Who We Are

The New York State Society of Plastic Surgeons, Inc was founded in 2008 on the following guiding principles:

To provide an entity through which plastic surgeons are represented to the appropriate state and national medical organizations and regulator agencies.

To promote the advancement of the art and science of cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery.

To promote the highest standards of professional skills and competence among plastic surgeons.

To promote the exchange of information among plastic surgeons.

To promote the highest standards of personal and professional conduct among plastic surgeons.

To promote the purposes and effectiveness of plastic surgeons as is consistent with the public interest.

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