

## **REVISION SURGERY & COMPLICATION POLICY**

Cosmetic surgery is elective and a personal choice. Patients should understand prior to scheduling surgery that maintenance procedures, revision surgery, and surgery or medical care required to address complications are part of the patient's long-term financial responsibility. If funds are unavailable, patients should consider delaying their procedure.

While surgeons strive to achieve the best possible outcomes, no guarantees can be made. Adverse outcomes can occur in cosmetic plastic surgery, as with any surgical procedure. Despite appropriate planning and execution, complications may occur, including bleeding, infection, scarring, skin necrosis, wound-healing problems, asymmetry, contour irregularities, capsular contracture, and unsatisfactory results, which may require additional surgical procedures to correct.

The need for revision does not imply surgical error or that a different outcome would have occurred with another surgeon. Skin quality and nicotine use are independent and significant risk factors; poor skin quality and a history of nicotine use each increase unpredictability, complication rates, and the likelihood of revision. Higher BMI (>30) and very low BMI (<23) are also associated with increased surgical complexity and higher revision rates.

Cosmetic surgery is not covered by health insurance, nor are procedures required to address adverse outcomes. Revision surgery and surgery performed to treat complications are therefore the patient's responsibility and may result in additional costs, including surgeon's fees, facility fees, anesthesia fees, medications, medical supplies, and hospital care. If surgery is performed at an ambulatory surgery center, transfer to a hospital may be required, with associated costs.

Patients typically pay three separate entities for cosmetic surgery: the facility, anesthesia providers (if applicable), and the surgeon. Smaller procedures performed in the office may not incur facility or anesthesia charges. At the surgeon's discretion, surgeon's fees may be reduced or waived for minor revisions performed in the office setting.

Our practice may purchase cosmetic complication insurance for certain procedures, which may cover specific complication-related costs within the first 30 days after surgery. Coverage terms vary by procedure and do not eliminate responsibility for surgeon's fees or revision surgery costs.

### **MINOR REVISIONS**

In our practice, minor revisions may not incur an additional surgeon's fee if a legitimate concern is raised within the first six months following surgery and the revision can be safely performed in an office setting. Minor scar revisions are commonly waived when mutually agreed upon and are determined on a case-by-case basis at the surgeon's discretion.

### **REVISIONS AFTER PRIOR PROCEDURES ELSEWHERE**

Revision surgery following prior liposuction, body contouring, or breast surgery performed by another surgeon involves increased complexity and higher surgical risk. Prior procedures may result in permanent tissue damage, scarring, fibrosis, altered anatomy, or compromised blood supply. Outcomes are less predictable, complication rates are higher, and patient dissatisfaction is more common. Results are rarely equivalent to those achievable in primary surgery, and any revision requested—whether after surgery performed elsewhere or within our practice—will incur additional fees.

**Initials**\_\_\_\_\_

## **BREAST IMPLANT REVISION SURGERY**

Breast implant surgery carries some of the highest revision rates in plastic surgery, particularly when implants are combined with a breast lift procedure, which has the highest percentage of patients requiring revision of any cosmetic surgical procedure. Contributing factors include tissue quality, healing variability, implant behavior, and the effects of gravity over time.

Breast implant patients should expect that additional surgery may be required during their lifetime due to implant lifespan, capsular contracture, changes in the breast envelope, aging, pregnancy, weight changes, and other health factors. Perfect symmetry is not achievable, and there are no guarantees regarding breast size, shape, or scar formation. Implant manufacturer warranties vary and should be reviewed prior to surgery.

Capsular contracture is an unpredictable reaction of the body to breast implants and remains one of the most common reasons for breast revision surgery. Revision for capsular contracture or related implant complications typically requires surgical correction and therefore involves additional costs, including additional surgeon's fees.

Patients presenting for revision surgery who already have implants in place may be advised to replace their implants. Patients who elect to reuse existing implants or utilize an implant manufacturer warranty—particularly when requesting above-the-muscle (subfascial or subglandular) placement—should understand that implants placed in the subfascial plane demonstrate variable rates of capsular contracture depending on implant type.

Non-Motiva implants have higher reported rates of capsular contracture above-the-muscle compared with Motiva implants. As a result, any revision surgery required for capsular contracture or related implant complications involving non-Motiva implants above-the-muscle—whether reused or replaced under warranty—will require full, non-discounted revision pricing, including surgeon's fees.

Manufacturer warranties may cover the cost of a replacement implant and may provide limited financial compensation; however, they often do not cover the total cost of surgery, including surgeon, facility, or anesthesia fees. Any warranty compensation received by the patient, before or after surgery, is expected to be applied toward surgical costs.

## **OTOPLASTY (EAR SURGERY)**

Otoplasty carries a higher risk of relapse or recurrence due to the inherent “memory” of ear cartilage. This risk is significantly higher in patients older than 10 years of age. Sutures used to reshape the cartilage may loosen, migrate, or erode, resulting in partial or complete recurrence, asymmetry, or infection.

Because of these unpredictable factors, any otoplasty revision will require full, non-discounted revision fees. While some revisions may be performed in an office setting, this is determined on a case-by-case basis and does not eliminate surgeon's fees.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_