

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 1, 2023

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Reconsideration of S codes Associated with Breast Reconstruction Procedures, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS') First Biannual 2023 Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Public Meeting Agenda

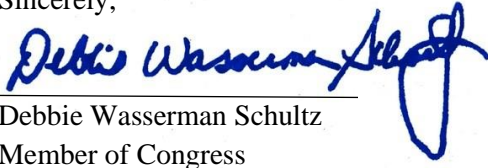
Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure,


We write today to express our grave concerns with discontinuing HCPCS Level II codes for breast reconstruction, specifically S2068, for deep inferior epigastric perforator (DIEP) flap surgery. Discontinuing S2068 and related HCPCS codes could undermine and restrict access to DIEP reconstruction, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable patients and creating uncertainty for women and providers. In response to CMS's call for additional input on these coding changes, we strongly urge that CMS retain HCPCS codes S2066-S2068 and not end their availability on December 31, 2024.


When compared to other breast reconstruction options, such as breast implants or transverse rectus abdominis flap reconstruction, DIEP flap reconstruction is lifelong, natural, and strength-preserving and has become a beacon of hope for patients who have faced breast cancer or prophylactic mastectomy. The consequences of discontinuing these HCPCS codes could result in patients paying out-of-pocket for these advanced reconstruction techniques or being forced to choose inferior reconstructive options or forgo reconstruction altogether.


We strongly urge CMS to re-evaluate its decision to discontinue these HCPCS codes and consider patient outcomes, including reduced hospitalization, quicker recovery times, faster return to work, and better quality of life for patients. Retention of these codes will ensure that patients in need of breast reconstruction continue to have access to timely, affordable, and high-quality breast reconstruction following mastectomy.

Sincerely,

  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

  
James Comer  
Member of Congress

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

  
Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator