

REASONS Why Custom Breast Prostheses and Custom Nipples are Medically Necessary and why I know they would work better for me as opposed to Off-the-shelf (OTS) prosthetic breasts and nipples. I have initialed next to each statement that applies, and I have signed the last page of this 3-page document.

I want to avoid further invasive surgery for the following reasons:

Mental Health

Physical Health

My radical or other mastectomy left my chestwall in a deformed, excavated state. OTS prosthetics do not compensate for this alteration to my chestwall; OTS prosthetics only compensate for a flat chestwall surface; it rubs against my chestwall and irritates the convex surface and indentations, causing skin irritation and pain or rash.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: _____

My remaining breast tissue on the non-surgical side is naturally sagging; OTS prosthetics do not sag, but are perfectly erect, therefore will be asymmetrical (uneven for me). This has created or will possibly create shoulder drop and overall body weight imbalance.

I do not desire further invasive surgery to correct my uneven breast and/or chestwall

I received a radical or other mastectomy leaving my chestwall in a deformed, excavated state. OTS prosthetics do not compensate for the deformity since the OTS only compensate for a flat chestwall surface.

I need a more durable option to OTS prosthetics.

I need a more life-like option to OTS prosthetics in the way Custom Prosthetics feel.

I need a more life-like option to OTS prosthetics in the way that Custom Prosthetics look.

I have a wide or broad chest wall with little or no projection. OTS prosthetics only offer acute projection whereas Custom Prosthetics will offer the same projection (or lack of) as my non-surgical side and give me medically necessary symmetry.

I have a small chest-wall with lots of projection on my non-surgical side. The OTS prosthetics only offer a large wide format and will take up more space across my chest than my chestframe allows. Custom Prosthetics, made to fit my narrow chestwall and protrude to the proper distance with my patient's non-surgical breast will be more realistic and will provide the balance I need.

OTS prosthetics do not offer a convex chestwall back which is what I need to fit the concave state of my chestwall.

I had a FAILED RECONSTRUCTION and need Custom Prosthetics to make my breasts symmetrical. OTS prosthetics only come in standard sizes and will not match the errors created during my failed reconstruction.

Before surgery, during Summer or times when I would sweat, my natural body was able to cool on its own. OTS prosthetics do not cool on their own. However, Custom Prosthetics are fabricated to provide cool comfort when I have excess body sweats which has caused or may cause skin irritation and painful rashes.

Custom Prosthetics are fabricated with a backside that will be the precise fit to my unique surgical site.

Custom Prosthetics are not made from the same silicone as OTS breast prostheses. Custom breast prostheses are made More life-like to skin tissue which will help me overcome alienation of affection issues that I have in connecting emotionally to the OTS prosthetics.

Custom Prosthetics will reduce or ameliorate the mental effects of my breast cancer diagnosis illness because it creates a sense of normalcy which looks and feels like the breast, nipple and skin tissue I had prior to surgery.

___(Single Mastectomy) The Heavy OTS prosthetics negatively affects my posture. I need lightweight Custom Prosthetics, fabricated to the exact weight of my remaining breast tissue.

___(Double Mastectomy) The Heavy OTS prosthetics negatively affects my posture. I need lightweight Custom Prosthetics, fabricated to the weight of my pre-op breast tissue.

Custom Prosthetics, which are aesthetically and functionally more similar to breast tissue than OTS prosthetics, will restore my pre-surgical self-confidence which affects my emotional and psychological mental health.

___ I have large breast tissue and the OTS prosthetics are too heavy. Custom Prosthetics are lightweight.

___ I have large breast tissue on one side and there are no OTS prosthetics that fit my full-figure sized other breast.

___ OTS prosthetics are not my complexion and I feel emotionally detached from the OTS.

___ My complexion changed for the season and the OTS prosthetics no longer color match my skin pigmentation.

___ The OTS Prosthetics are too light and feel uneven to the weight of my breast on the non-surgical side.

___ The shape of OTS prosthetics do not fit my chest wall.

___ The shape of OTS prosthetics do not match my non-surgical breasts' shape.

___ Custom Prosthetics have a more personalized shape for a more intimate fit than OTS prosthetics.

___ Custom Prosthetics have a more natural appearance than OTS prosthetics.

___ Custom Prosthetics are designed especially for me and acts as a part of my body whereas OTS prosthetics do not.

___ Custom Prosthetics have a more natural feel than OTS prosthetics.

___ OTS prosthetics move around in my bra which rubs and irritates my skin, causing chaffing. Custom Prosthetics are a perfect chestwall fit to the surgical site which prevents shifting; Custom breast prostheses can also be fabricated to be used with skin adhesive to make sure they do not move around in my bra.

___ OTS prosthetics move around in my bra which leave me with a feeling of insecurity while in public. Custom Prosthetics are a perfect fit to the surgical site which prevents shifting; Custom breast prostheses can also be fabricated to be used with skin adhesive to make sure they do not move around in my bra, making me feel secure in public.

___ OTS prosthetics need to be worn with a pocketed bra. Custom Prosthetics do not require a bra and I can therefore resume my Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) performed prior to surgery where no bra is required. This would alleviate my insurance company of the financial burden of paying for expensive mastectomy bras each year.

___ Custom Prosthetics allows for a more active lifestyle to complete my Activities of Daily Living.

___ I can obtain medically necessary sleep with Custom Prosthetics where I do not need a bra whereas sleep is disrupted while in a bra to house the OTS prosthetics due to the bra irritating and bringing discomfort while I am attempting to sleep. Custom Prosthetics do not require a bra as it is self adhesive and may be worn independent of a bra. With Custom Prosthetics, I would now be able to sleep through the night.

___ I can not mentally and emotionally deal with additional surgeries to be symmetrical. With Custom Prosthetics, my chestwall will be symmetrical unlike OTS prosthetics which only come in specific sizes and can never be matched to my unique size.

___ I have struggled and failed to find OTS prosthetics that are right for me - one that fits my unique contours.

___ I have struggled and failed to find OTS prosthetics that are right for me - one that is comfortable. Comfort is needed since I will have to wear the breast for 18-24 hours each day as an extension of my body.

CUSTOM NIPPLES (ONLY):

___ I have an inverted nipple on my non-surgical side. The OTS prosthetic nipple is extroverted and will not match; Custom Prosthetic Nipples with Areola will be fabricated to match my surgical side, inverted nipple.

___ My nonsurgical nipple protrudes more than OTS prosthetic nipple; Custom Prosthetic Nipples with Areola will be fabricated to match my surgical side and protrude to the proper degree.

___ Color mismatch. OTS prosthetic nipples only come in 4 basic colors. Human flesh has a variety of a vast array of colors. Custom Prosthetic Nipples with Areola will match my unique fleshtone.

___ Size mismatch. OTS prosthetic nipples only come in 3 basic sizes: S, M, L. Human flesh has a wide variety of sizes. Custom Prosthetic Nipples with Areola will be fabricated to the size of my pre-surgical natural nipple.

___ Shape mismatch. OTS prosthetic nipples only come in 1 shape. Human nipples come in a wide variety of sizes. Custom Prosthetic Nipples with Areola will be fabricated to the shape of my pre-surgical natural nipple.

___ OTS prosthetic nipples only come in 4 basic colors without any flesh identifiers such as unique moles, scars, wrinkles, veins, texture, etc. Custom Prosthetic Nipples with Areola with areola will match my unique flesh identifiers.

___ My nipple was removed during surgery. I need Custom Prosthetic Nipple replacements for realism. The OTS prosthetic nipples do not look real.

___ My nipple was removed during surgery. I need Custom Prosthetic Nipple replacements that are symmetrical to my pre-surgery nipple(s). The OTS prosthetic nipples are not symmetrical to my pre-surgery nipple(s).

___ OTS nipples assume that I am in the Supine position at all times (standing up). Custom Prosthetic Nipples with Areola are created to mimic my nipple when I am standing or laying down (collapsed/supine and protruding/erect).

___ I had a failed reconstruction which did not replace my nipples.

___ I had a failed reconstruction which only gave me temporary nipples which have faded.

___ I had a failed reconstruction of my nipple and the result was flesh that does not properly resemble my nipple.

___ Custom Prosthetic Nipples are less costly than having nipple surgery.

Comments: _____

My initialed statements above, reflect my experience, observation and feelings as to why I need Custom Prosthetics. Please share with my medical staff, insurance and other pertinent entities so that I may obtain the medically necessary prosthetics described above.

Signed Name

Printed Name

Printed Name of BFRIN Employee

Today's Date