

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 to me PERSONALLY, 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.

___ My remaining breast tissue on the non-surgical side is naturally sagging; OTS prosthetics do not sag, but are perfectly erect, therefore OTS 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 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 chest frame allows. Custom Prosthetics, made to fit my narrow chestwall and protrude to the proper distance with my non-surgical breast will be more realistic and 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 have 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 missing 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 act 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 allow 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 cannot mentally, emotionally nor physically 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 - ones that fit my unique contours.

I have struggled and failed to find OTS prosthetics that are right for me - ones that are 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 non-surgical side, inverted nipple.

My non-surgical nipple protrudes more than OTS prosthetic nipple; Custom Prosthetic Nipples with Areola will be fabricated to match my non-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 shapes. 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 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. Custom Prosthetic Nipples with Areola provide realism.

___ 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 prosthetic 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.

EXPECTATIONS - I understand the following regarding my Custom Breast Prosthesis(es) and/or Custom Prosthetic Nipples w/Areola: *the prosthesis is made to be worn against the chest wall and not in the pocket of a specialized bra; *the prosthesis was designed to fit best in the bra I was scanned/molded in. This is the bra style I wear most often. *if I wear the prosthesis in a bra different than the style of bra I was scanned/molded in, it may not achieve the optimal fit; * the BFRIN Custom Breast Prosthesis comes in select colors. The color I choose will be close to the color swatch, but not exact; skin tones can change through the course of a season; therefore, I do not expect my custom prostheses to match my suntan; *actual breast size can vary during the menstrual cycle or due to weight gain or loss; if I lose/gain weight, the prosthesis may not fit properly; *there is no guarantee on the location, amount, etc. of requested freckles and veins; *there may be a fill hole on the back of the prosthesis and additional holes throughout the prosthesis to allow ventilation; *proper fit and wear of the prosthesis does not require adhesion to the chest wall. I understand that adhering the prosthesis is optional and not guaranteed; *I have discussed with the fitter, the area of my surgical site that I want filled-in/covered and how that relates to whether or not I want the prosthesis to show outside of the bra; *for Unilateral Patients the prosthesis will look like my remaining breast as it appears in a bra; *for Bilateral Patients, I understand that the prostheses will look like the shape and size of the breast forms and bra that I am scanned/molded in; *the prosthesis has a one year warranty against manufacturing defects. Tears in the foam core are expected and are not a manufacturing defect; * I understand that my prosthesis will be unique in shape and size; therefore, it will look different from the sample; *the above expectations have been explained to me and I understand them completely.

I AM AFFIRMING THAT I WAS SCANNED AND/OR MOULDED TODAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING CUSTOM BREAST PROSTHESES AND/OR CUSTOM PROSTHETIC NIPPLES W/ AREOLA.

I am NOT undergoing radiation or chemotherapy. It has been MORE THAN 6 months since I finished radiation and chemotherapy. I have NO broken skin on my chest wall nor underarm. I have NO hypersensitivity or painful areas on my chest wall or underarm. I am NOT on a diet or exercise plan to lose or gain weight. I am NOT taking a steroid.

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.

Signature: X _____

Date: _____