

# Case Study: COSMETIC PROCEDURE CLAIMED AS THERAPEUTIC

## CASE DETAILS

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- Young patient with no past medical history.
- Claim submitted for bilateral ptosis correction (SL833E).
- Case was flagged for possibly falsifying a cosmetic claim as a therapeutic claim.

## PANEL DECISION

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The Panel concluded that the “ptosis” surgery was done for a cosmetic reason because of the absence of significant ptosis clinically.

- 1 The Panel queried the initial certification by an ophthalmologist.
- 2 To certify a functional visual block, the Margin Reflex Distance of upper eyelid (MRD1) should be <2mm.
- 3 Pre-operative clinical photo showed no ptosis i.e. MRD1 was >2mm and degree of visual field obstruction was not commensurate with the eyelid position.

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Total charges from inappropriate items/codes:  
**>\$10,000**

## KEY LEARNING POINTS

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- ✓ MediSave/MediShield Life claims are not allowed for cosmetic surgeries, except for reconstruction due to trauma or other disfiguring disease.
- ✓ Explicit clinical requirements for surgeries like ptosis must comply with the MOH Manual on MediSave Scheme.
- ✓ False or misleading health declaration or claim application constitutes an offense under the MediShield Life Scheme Act Section 19 and can lead to heavy penalties to the doctor.