

Blue Cross Blue Shield of GA
Gap Exception Appeal

Re: Mary Berns
Member ID: UBC340A23550
DOB: 09/06/1958
Case # UM3415867
Fax # 877-663-2740

November 17, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

We received acceptance for precertification and approval for surgeries to treat the diagnosed disease of lipedema. The response was that it would be covered as out of network due to other specialist in the area providing the same care. There were many physicians the patient was referred to in network like Dr. Mark E Lovaas. Paula who has been assisting Dr. Lovaas with surgeries for 20 years, advised he **does not treat for Lipedema**.

Jaime Schwartz is a board-certified plastic surgeon and renowned lipedema specialist. Founder of Total Lipedema Care in Beverly Hills, Ca. Dr. Schwartz has dedicated part of his private practice to helping women suffering from this disease. Dr. Schwartz continues to research and discover answers to this complex disease in which the root cause appears to be driven by women's hormones. Lipedema specialist, like Dr. Schwartz, are finding ways to reach these women in the early stages so they can have the emotional and physical support as well as treatment options to live with this disease.

Additionally, we are requesting a single case agreement for Jaime Schwartz, MD, and TLC Surgical Center. We asked they be paid as in network providers. We are requesting this information be added to Miss Bern's case as justification for using Dr. Schwartz, a lipedema specialist.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this matter.

Best regards,
Jeanette Arellano

Total Lipedema Care
Jaime Schwartz, MD, FACS
Board Certified Plastic Surgeon
Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery – USC Keck School of Medicine
Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery