

You may have lost your nose or the area around it from cancer surgery or an injury. This factsheet tells about getting a nose prosthesis. A prosthesis is a device made to replace a missing human body part.

## How can a nose prosthesis help me?

For many patients, plastic surgery to reconstruct the nose area is not an option. A prosthetic costs much less than surgery, and it looks almost the same as your real nose.

In addition to giving the appearance of the nose, the prosthesis restores lost functions:

- Helps breathing and speech
- Protects your airway
- Keeps the mucous membranes from drying, cracking, and bleeding
- Allows you to wear glasses

## What keeps the prosthesis in place?

Most patients use glue. It takes about 5 minutes each day to put the prosthesis in place. It stays fairly secure. Moisture from your breath and movement of your face can make it come loose.

We will work with you to get the best fit and glue system so your prosthesis will be as secure as possible.

The bones around the nose are very thin. They cannot support implants for other attachment methods.

You can find instructions for using your prosthesis in this factsheet:

*Using and Caring for Your Facial Prosthesis: Glued*

## Will my insurance cover the costs?

Nearly all insurance plans will cover the cost of a prosthesis. Many plans consider our service as in-network. If your plan's network has no prosthesis provider, we can often qualify as in-network.

## What is the process for making my prosthesis?

Each prosthesis is a unique, custom design made to fit the person wearing it. You come in for three visits:

1. We take impressions of your face so we can make the basic shape for your prosthesis. It takes 30–60 minutes.
2. We fine-tune the basic shape to fit and look right. This can take from 30 minutes to 2 hours.
3. We color the prosthesis to match your skin. This takes 1–2 hours.

Usually, the appointments are a few days apart. The prosthesis is ready in about 2 weeks. For patients who travel long distances, we can speed up the process to complete the prosthesis in 3 days.

## What is my prosthesis made of?

We use silicone and polyurethane rubber. These materials are safe and non-allergenic for use in medical products. They do not cause allergic reactions.

## How long will my prosthesis last?

Your prosthesis should last several years with daily wear and proper care.

The original cost includes changes or repairs within 90 days of delivery. We also have a free 2-year repair or replace guarantee.

Insurance will often cover repairs, changes, or replacement from accidental damage.

Learn more at our website:  
[huntsmancancer.org/prosthetics](https://huntsmancancer.org/prosthetics)  
Phone: 801-585-0140  
Email: [paul.tanner@hci.utah.edu](mailto:paul.tanner@hci.utah.edu)