

# Voluntary Sterilization

In the majority of cases it is found that both male and female sterilization procedures are performed for a medical reason, although the reason is not always expressed. Medical reasons frequently found to have prompted the decision for sterilization have included deep anxiety associated with the possibility of unwanted conception, eugenic considerations, etc. It is standard practice to permit payment of benefits for both male and female sterilization procedures without restrictions as to the patient's reason for the procedure.

*Male.* Sterilization is the prevention of conception by the surgical cutting of the vas deferens, usually described as vasectomy or vasoligation.

*Female.* Sterilization is the prevention of conception by surgical interruption of Fallopian tubes, usually described as tubal ligation, salpingectomy, or laparoscopy with ligation or fulguration or transection of oviducts (tubes).

*Reversal.* A surgical operation consisting of reanastomosis of the Fallopian tubes in the female or reanastomosis of the vas deferens in the male may be performed to reverse a previous sterilization operation and restore the reproduction capacity ordinarily found in a person in good health. Standard practice does not permit payment of benefits for reanastomosis procedures.