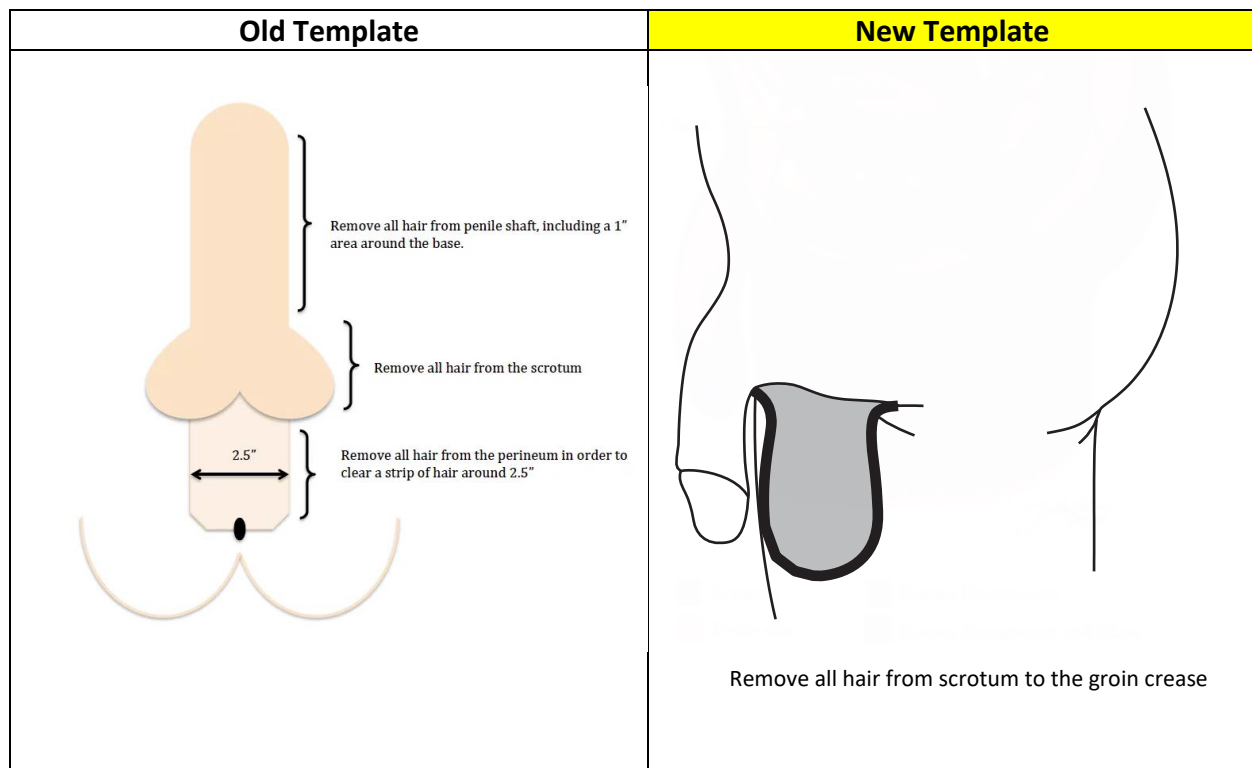


GSPBC Vaginoplasty Hair Removal Template Change

Please be advised that GSPBC has modified the hair removal template for Vaginoplasty in February 2023. It has been determined that hair removal from the scrotum only is medically recommended. This tissue is used to create the deepest part of the vaginal canal, and is the most difficult to remove post-operatively should intra-vaginal hair growth cause concern.

Please refer to the frequently asked questions (FAQ) below. Should you have further questions and would like to discuss with the Gender Surgery BC (GSPBC) team, please call our clinic at 604-875-5060, or send an email to: gendersurgeryprogrambc@vch.ca.



Q: What changes have been made to the vaginoplasty hair removal template?

A: The old template included hair to be removed from the penile shaft including 1 inch around the base, hair from the scrotum, and perineum. The new template includes only hair from the scrotum to be removed up to the groin crease.

Q: Why has this change been made?

A: This change was made to help alleviate the challenges that go along with hair removal. We understand that time, pain, and accessibility are significant barriers to hair removal, and initiating this change may require patients to spend less time in the hair removal process.

Q: Are there drawbacks to having less hair removed for surgery?

A: No. From a medical perspective, the scrotal skin is used to create the innermost portion of the vaginal canal. The skin on the penile shaft, base, and perineum are used to create more external portions, which can more easily be removed post-operatively by traditional methods. Patients who undergo a limited-depth vaginoplasty do not require any hair removal because the scrotal skin graft is not used. Often these patients have hair on their penile shaft, base, and perineum and are ready to proceed with surgery.

Q: What if I have already started hair removal? Which template should I use?

A: If you were provided with the old template and approved for hair removal prior to February 2023, you and your hair removal provider can choose to continue funded hair removal using the old template. This may result in more time spent within the hair removal process. If you would like to be considered surgically ready in a shorter time-frame, you may proceed with the new template.

Q: What if I have questions about my hair removal and the template I have been provided by my surgeon?

A: Please speak to your care team at Gender Surgery Program BC to discuss questions or concerns you may have about your care plan, including hair removal and the template you have been provided.

Q. What if I am having difficulty or no longer want to continue with hair removal?

A: If you are having difficulty finishing or no longer want to continue with hair removal, speak with your hair removal contact at Trans Care BC. Your surgical team will support you with a plan to move forward with your surgery. This will include a conversation about intraoperative hair removal (hair removal done during your surgery), which is a standard part of vaginoplasty surgery.