CT. Statute 38A542 stipulates that a commercial health insurance policy originating in Connecticut must provide one synthetic wig in a lifetime for a woman suffering from chemotherapy induced hair loss. An oncologist must write the prescription for a “cranial prosthesis” (HCPC code is S8095), which must accompany the bill, in order for insurance to cover the item. Maximum amount of coverage is $350.

Although most working people have wig coverage, this mandate does not mean there is universal coverage:

- Medicare does not provide any wig coverage.
- Healthnet Smartchoice (the Medicare HMO) does not provide wig coverage.
- “Self-funded” employers may or may not include coverage for wigs. If you disagree with their decision, you may appeal through your plan administrator (CC: to your employer). If all appeals are exhausted, you have the right to seek legal counsel and can file suit in federal court. The US Dept. of Labor (617-565-9600) can inform you of your rights.
- If your insurance originates in any state other than CT, you may not have wig coverage. The coverage is based on individual policy, not on the CT law. Decisions disagreed with may be appealed.
- Deductibles and co-pays may apply.

Some stores will bill the insurance company directly.

**The American Cancer Society (1-800-ACS-2345), (203- 379-4700) and Cancer Care (1-800-813-HOPE), (203 854-9911) have wigs that can be obtained FREE OF CHARGE.**

Ask your social worker about the next “Look Good…Feel Better” Program, a public service program, partnered by the American Cancer Society, the Cosmetic, Fragrance and Toiletry Association, the National Cosmetology Association and co-sponsored by Yale-New Haven Hospital and Yale Cancer
Center, where wigs and other head coverings as well as skin care and make-up are discussed.

For most women, selecting a wig is a mystery. To make the right choice, get to know what’s available:

**HAIR TYPES: SYNTHETIC OR “REAL”**

Synthetic and human hair wigs are equally durable and can both be matched to your own hair color and desired cut. Many women favor synthetic wigs, since they are easier to maintain, hold their set longer, dry faster after washing, and are far less expensive than “real hair” wigs. Hair varies from tough (low-end) to almost silky (high-end). At the same time, human hair win fans for natural feel and versatility; in fact, you can reset as often as real hair and touch-up using heat appliances (i.e., curling irons, blow dryers, etc.) that would melt a synthetic wig. Grade A human hair wigs (not Grade B, which are less resilient) can even be re-dyed or permed. However, since the added work required for human can become tiresome and pricey, many women prefer to go “low maintenance” with synthetic. It’s a highly personal decision.

**CONSTRUCTION: MACHINE-, HAND- OR CUSTOM-MADE**

Quality construction is a key factor in choosing any wig. A well-crafted, machine-made synthetic wig looks like your own hair and offers comfort-minded details, like a vented cap, at a reasonable price. Such mass-produced synthetic wigs perform better than some low quality human hair wigs, so it’s important to know what you are getting. High-quality, hand-made wigs look even more natural, since strands of hair are individually tied, allowing the wig to be parted and styled with hair accessories. Top-of-the-line, custom-made wigs – fit to your precise specifications – are the closest to your own hair, but cost a great deal and take several months to produce. To find reputable wig retailers and makers, contact the American Cancer Society or your hair stylist.

**OPTIONS: WIGS OR HAIRPIECES**

In addition to wigs, there are bangs, falls, ponytails and side pieces to wear with hats and head wraps. Such hairpieces are an option if you prefer not to wear a wig – or just don’t want to wear one every day. Attached to the inside of a hat or head wrap (usually with Velcro), the hairpiece falls naturally from beneath, providing the illusion of a full head of hair.
SHOPPING TIPS

• We highly recommend using a licensed hair professional who specializes in wig fitting.
• Find out what your particular insurance plan covers, and who are the “in network” providers.
• When you shop for your wig, take a friend or family member for opinion and advice.
• When you purchase your wig, you may also want to pick up these supplies: wig caps, wig stand, wig shampoo, wig spray, wig conditioner, hair nets, hair pins, rollers, and a wire wig brush.


THE BOUTIQUE’S COSMETOLOGY SERVICES INCLUDE COMPLEMENTARY HEAD SHAVES AND HAIRCUTS FOR SMILOW PATIENTS LOSING HAIR RELATED TO THEIR CANCER TREATMENT.

HOURS FOR HAIRDRESSER/COSMETOLOGY SERVICES ARE 9:00AM TO 4:00PM ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO STOP AT THE BOUTIQUE TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT OR CALL DIRECTLY AT 203-200-CARE (2273).

BELOW IS A LIST OF OTHER PLACES WOMEN HAVE FOUND WIGS. IT IS BY NO MEANS COMPREHENSIVE, AND IS NOT A RECOMMENDATION OF ANY BUSINESS LISTED. WE HAVE NOT VERIFIED LICENSING OR EXPERTISE AT ANY BUSINESS, SO PLEASE CONSIDER THIS IN YOUR DECISION MAKING.
NEW HAVEN

Pio of Italy Hair Studio
1118 Whalley Avenue
New Haven, CT
(203) 397-0200
(by appointment only)
Tuesday – Friday 8:30A-5:30P
Saturday – 8:30A-4:30P

EAST HAVEN

Hair to Eternity
204 Kimberly Avenue
East Haven, CT
(203) 469-3173
(phone for appointment with fitter)
Tuesday-Friday: 9:00A-9:00P
Saturday: 9:00A-6:00P

EAST LYME

Pearl’s Wig Boutique
313 Flanders Road
East Lyme, CT 06333
(860) 442-5555
Wednesday-Friday-Saturday: 10:00A-5:30P

FAIRFIELD

Total Look
2193 Black Rock Turnpike
Fairfield, CT 06825
(203) 367-4247
(by appointment only)

GREENWICH

Allura Salon
23 West Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, CT 06830
(203) 869-1234
(by appointment only)
Monday – Friday 9:00A – 3:00P
Sunday: 11:00A – 4:00P

HAMDEN

Richard Penna Salon
2456 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT
(203) 281-4345
(fitting/styling by appointment)
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00A-5:00P
Thursday: 9:00A – 7:00P
Saturday: 8:00A-4:00P

NORTH HAVEN

Wig Towne
117 Washington Avenue
North Haven, CT 06473
(203) 239-2480
(by appointment)
Monday: 10:00A – 3:00P
Tuesday – Friday: 10:00A-5:30P
Saturday: 10:00A – 3:00P
Hair Replacement Concepts  (call for appointment)
266 Quinnipiac Avenue
North Haven, CT  06473
(203) 915-1271

ORANGE

Saxon Kent
185 Boston Post Road  Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 10:00A-5:30P
Orange, CT 06477  Thursday: 10:00-7:00P
(203) 795-3682

Paula’s Wig Boutique
501 Boston Post Road  Tuesday-Friday: 10:30A-5:00P
Orange, CT 06477  Saturday: 10:30A-4:00P
(203) 799-8510

SOUTHPORT

The Total Look  (by appointment only)
3482 Boston Post Road  Tuesday – Friday: 9:00A-9:00P
Southport, CT 06890  Saturday: 8:30A-4:30P
(203) 255-9510

TRUMBULL

Anthony’s Wigs & Hairpieces  (by appointment only)
Hawley Lane Mall  Monday-Friday: 9:30A-9:00P
Trumbull, CT 06611  Saturday: 9:00A-5:00P
(203) 377-2084

WATERBURY

Tonkins Wigs
481 Wolcott Street  (by appointment)
Waterbury, CT 06705  Tuesday-Friday: 10:00A-5:00P
(203) 753-1355  Saturday: 10:00A-4:00P

WETHERSFIELD

FABI of Rome Hair Replacement Center
350 Silas Dean Highway  (by appointment only)
Wethersfield, CT 06109  (860) 571-0057
(866) 469-3224
Toll free:  (866) 469-3224