

Eligibility criteria for balloon sinuplasty

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of balloon sinuplasty under a member's policy when criteria **1, 2, 3, and 4** are met for that member.

1. The member has at least **one** of the following:
 - stage III barotrauma (aerosinusitis)
 - a documented history of inflammation of the paranasal sinuses with symptoms persisting beyond 12 weeks, or
 - more than four episodes of acute sinusitis within the last 12 months.
2. A computed tomography (CT) scan or cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) scan obtained within six months of the planned date of surgery has confirmed changes consistent with chronic sinusitis characterised by **one** of the following:
 - air fluid levels
 - mucosal thickening of more than 2mm, or
 - opacification.
3. Frontal sinus disease or anterior ethmoid disease is present.
4. At least **one** of the following symptoms is present and symptoms have not responded to medical therapy following treatment of at least four weeks duration:
 - anterior or posterior mucopurulent nasal discharge
 - nasal obstruction
 - facial pain/pressure/fullness, or
 - headache.

The cost of balloon sinuplasty will **not** be reimbursed in any of the following circumstances:

- extensive sino-nasal polyps are present
- allergic fungal rhino-sinusitis is present
- extensive previous surgery has resulted in significant osteogenesis
- maxillary and/or sphenoid disease unless significant frontal sinus disease is present.