

# TECHNICAL MATTERS

**T**he original style of your hairpiece can be preserved if you wash and take care of it properly. Here are a few suggestions:

**CLEANING:** Place your hairpiece in a basin or shallow sink of cool water containing enough of the recommended hairpiece shampoo (please, *no* Woolite) to produce a low level of suds. **NOTE: NEVER USE HOT WATER,** you will loosen the curl in synthetic fibers.

- Gently swish the hairpiece back and forth for a minute or two.

- Rinse thoroughly in cool clean water. Fill basin again and add a capful or two of a recommended conditioning agent to the rinse water to eliminate static and keep it smelling fresh. Gently swish the hairpiece back and forth. Lightly rinse out the conditioning agent.



- After allowing excess water to drain off, carefully blot with a soft bath towel and lay flat on towel to air dry naturally (do not hang to dry). **DO NOT USE HEAT TO DRY!**

- After your hairpiece is completely dry, you may brush or pick it into its original style. **DO NOT BRUSH WHILE WET,** doing so will alter the original style and curl.

**CONDITIONING:** Some manufacturers make a specially formulated spray conditioner which will enhance, condition, cut static,

and generally prolong the life of your hairpiece. This conditioner is designed to be sprayed onto the fiber between wearings as well as after each washing. This product is most important to have on hand and for longer styles, it's a **MUST!**

**STYLING ENHANCERS:** Any good quality hair mousse can create

"the wet look" as well as protect the fiber at the same time. Apply it on wet fiber after washing or simply dampen the fiber before applying. After applying mousse, simply pick (do not brush) hairpiece into curls and allow to air dry naturally. These types of products are especially good to use on curlier styles.

## INSURANCE TIPS

**I**n the majority of cases, most insurance companies will cover all or a large percentage of your cranial prosthesis cost. How you fill out the insurance form can be half the battle. Try using these words instead of the word wig: "A custom full cranial prosthesis to counteract the psychological distress secondary to alopecia."

Any questions or concerns you have regarding insurance claims can usually be answered by your State Insurance Board. They will be able to tell you what the latest legislative status is regarding coverage of hair prostheses.

The following information has been compiled to aid you in filing a claim with your insurance carrier for a hair prosthesis.

1. Review your benefit booklet. First, check the "Benefit Booklet" given you by your insurance carrier. This lists in detail all of the covered expenses under your particular plan. Look for the section under "Covered Expenses" relating to "prosthesis" or "prosthetic devices". Photocopy this page.
2. Complete the claim form provided by your insurance carrier.
3. Obtain a written prescription for a full cranial prosthesis on an actual prescription form from your doctor. Also, request a detailed letter explaining the extent of your hair loss. Ask

your doctor to use the words "cranial prosthesis" as it is considered a medically necessary item. A brief letter from a psychiatrist may also be beneficial, if available.

4. Word the sales receipt. Have the salesperson write up a sales receipt or invoice for a cranial prosthesis.
5. Provide the insurance company with photos. Take some pictures of yourself without your prosthesis and without corrective eye make-up. This will immediately show that your claim is not for cosmetic purposes.
6. Handwrite them a letter. Detail the emotional effects that your medical treatment has had on your life. Discuss the financial aspects of frequent cranial prosthesis purchases (if applicable). Advise that a prosthesis is just as medically necessary as a prosthetic limb or breast - it replaces a missing body part - hair, as well as counteracting the psychological distress secondary to alopecia.

There are other avenues and areas from which financial aid and assistance can be obtained. Social Workers, The American Cancer Society, The National Alopecia Areata Foundation, and other support groups can help you find assistance in your time of need. As an added suggestion, ask your accountant for information regarding medical tax deductions.