

## Ocular Photoscreening

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[Coverage Policy](#) Medical 172  
[Version](#) 3

**Member-specific benefits take precedence over medical policy and benefits may vary across plans. Refer to the individual's benefit plan for details\*.**

### Purpose:

This policy addresses the medical necessity of Ocular Photoscreening.

### Description & Definitions:

Ocular photoscreening is a noninvasive screening device used for diagnostic eye exams using a computer system to analyze, a form of vision screening useful in preventative care. Photoscreening utilizes a camera or video to obtain optical images which reflect light from each eye to detect refractory errors and misalignment, which are risk factors for amblyopia (anisometropia, high hypermetropia, high astigmatism, cataracts, strabismus, ptosis).

### Criteria:

Ocular Photoscreening is considered medically necessary for **1 or more** of the following:

- Preverbal child under age 3 years
- Young child age 3-5 years
- Child age 5-7 years who has indications of **All** of the following:
  - Child is developmentally delayed
  - Child is not cooperative enough for a routine visual acuity screening examination and therefore require this screening test

Ocular Photoscreening is considered **not medically necessary** for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria.

### Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Coding	Description
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99174	Instrument-based ocular screening (eg, photoscreening, automated-refraction), bilateral; with remote analysis and report
99177	Instrument-based ocular screening (eg, photoscreening, automated-refraction), bilateral; with on-site analysis

#### Considered Not Medically Necessary:

Coding	Description
	None

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - approved only products only.

#### Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2023: March

Reviewed Dates:

- 2021: April

Effective Date:

- May 2020

#### References:

Specialty Association Guidelines; Government Regulations; Winifred S. Hayes, Inc; UpToDate; Literature Review; Specialty Advisors; National Coverage Determination (NCD); Local Coverage Determination (LCD).

(2023). Retrieved Feb 13, 2023, from MCG 26th Edition: <https://careweb.careguidelines.com/ed26/index.html>

(2023). Retrieved Feb 13, 2023, from CMS: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/search-results.aspx?hcpcsOption=code&hcpcsStartCode=99174&hcpcsEndCode=99174&sortBy=title&areald=all&docType=6,3,5,1,F,P&contractOption=all>

(2023). Retrieved Feb 13, 2023, from DMAS: <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/>  
Amblyopia in children: Classification, screening, and evaluation. (2022, Nov 18). Retrieved Feb 13, 2023, from UpToDate: [https://www.uptodate.com/contents/amblyopia-in-children-classification-screening-and-evaluation?search=ocular%20photoscreening&source=search\\_result&selectedTitle=2~3&usage\\_type=default&display\\_rank=2](https://www.uptodate.com/contents/amblyopia-in-children-classification-screening-and-evaluation?search=ocular%20photoscreening&source=search_result&selectedTitle=2~3&usage_type=default&display_rank=2)

Amblyopia: Types, Diagnosis, Treatment, and New Perspectives. (2019, Jun 25). Retrieved Feb 13, 2023, from American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO): <https://www.aao.org/disease-review/amblyopia-types-diagnosis-treatment-new-perspectiv>

Photoscreening For The Detection Of Amblyopia Risk Factors In Children - ARCHIVED Nov 28, 2018. (n.d.). Retrieved Feb 13, 2023, from Hayes: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/dir.photoscreening2727>

Vision in Children Ages 6 Months to 5 Years: Screening. (2017, Sep 5). Retrieved Feb 13, 2023, from U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF): <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/vision-in-children-ages-6-months-to-5-years-screening>

#### Special Notes: \*

This medical policy expresses Sentara Health Plan's determination of medical necessity of services, and they are based upon a review of currently available clinical information. Medical policies are not a substitute for clinical judgment or for any prior authorization requirements of the health plan. These policies are not an explanation of benefits.

Medical policies can be highly technical and complex and are provided here for informational purposes. These medical policies are intended for use by health care professionals. The medical policies do not constitute medical advice or medical care. Treating health care professionals are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment and medical advice. Sentara Health Plan members should discuss the information in the medical policies with their treating health care professionals. Medical technology is constantly evolving and these medical policies are subject to change without notice, although Sentara Health Plan will notify providers as required in advance of changes that could have a negative impact on benefits.

#### Keywords:

SHP Ocular Photoscreening, SHP Medical 172, PlusoptiX, SPOT, iScreen, GoCheckKids, optical images, amblyopia, anisometropia, high hypermetropia, high astigmatism, cataracts, strabismus, ptosis