

Eyelid Procedures and Brow Lift, Surgical 13

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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 Eyelid Procedures and Brow Lift.

- Visual Fields submitted using manual or non-automated methodology are not suitable for medical necessity determinations.
- Any requested repairs of the non-affected eye to maintain good vision must be approved by a Medical Director.

Description & Definitions:

Blepharoplasty is the surgical removal of redundant skin, muscle, and fatty tissue from the upper and/or lower eyelids.

Blepharoptosis repair is the surgical procedure to correct drooping of the upper eyelids.

Brow lift is a surgical procedure to lift the eyebrows by removing excessive or loose skin from the forehead.

Canthoplasty is drooping of the outer corner of the eyelid.

Ectropion is the out-turning of the eyelids.

Entropion is the inward turning of eyelids.

Reconstructive Procedures are intended to correct a significant variation from normal related to accidental injury, disease, trauma, treatment of a disease or congenital defect are considered reconstructive in nature.

NOTE: Procedures that correct the anatomy without improving or restoring physiologic function are considered Cosmetic Procedures.

Criteria:

Eyelid Procedures and Brow Lift is medically necessary for **1 or more** of the following:

- **UPPER eyelid Blepharoplasty (15822, 15823)** is covered for **1 or more** of the following:
 - blepharochalasis, dermatochalasis or pseudoptosis with **1 or more** of the following:
 - Visual field defects with **ALL** of the following:
 - Clear photograph documentation at eye level with the individual looking straight ahead and **ALL** of the following
 - Redundant skin overhanging the upper eyelid margin and resting on eyelashes
 - Significant dermatitis on the upper eyelid caused by the excess tissue
 - Visual Field loss or Testing with **1 or more** of the following:

- upper visual field loss of at least 20 degrees
 - 30% on visual field testing that is corrected when the upper lid margin is elevated by taping the eyelid AND
- Difficulty tolerating a prosthesis in an anophthalmic socket; or
- Repair of a functional defect caused by trauma, tumor, surgery, or Congenital defect; or
- Periorbital sequelae of thyroid disease; or
- Nerve palsy; OR
- Blepharospasm
- Exposure keratitis due to **1 or more** of the following
 - Eyelid laxity
 - Inability to properly close eye due to Bell palsy or other disorder
- occlusion amblyopia with ALL of the following:
 - Child is 9 years of age or younger
 - Severe obstruction of central vision as determined by a physician.
- **A lower eyelid reconstructive blepharoplasty (15820, 15821)** is considered medically necessary for **1 or more** of the following indications when there is a functional visual impairment as documented by preoperative frontal photographs:
 - lower eyelid edema due to a metabolic or inflammatory disorder when the edema is causing a persistent visual impairment (e.g., secondary to systemic corticosteroid therapy, myxedema, Grave's disease, nephrotic syndrome) and is unresponsive to conservative medical management
 - corneal and/or conjunctival injury or disease due to entropion or epiblepharon
 - lid laxity with uncontrolled tearing and/or irritation as documented by history
- **LOWER or UPPER eyelid ectropion or entropion repair (67914—67924)** is considered medically necessary for **1 or MORE** of the following:
 - corneal and/or conjunctival injury
 - disease due to ectropion, entropion or trichiasis
- **UPPER eyelid ptosis (blepharoptosis) repair (67901—67908)** is considered medically necessary for **1 or more** of the following:
 - Adult with **All** of the following:
 - Visual Field loss or Testing with **1 or more** of the following:
 - upper visual field loss of at least 20 degrees
 - 30% on visual field testing that is corrected when the upper lid margin is elevated by taping the eyelidThe margin reflex distance (MRD) between the pupillary light reflex and the upper eyelid skin edge is less than or equal to 2.0 mm;
 - Eye level photographs documenting the abnormal lid position
 - Documented complaints of interference with vision or visual field-related activities such as:
 - Difficulty reading; or
 - Driving due to eyelid position
 - Child 9 years or less with occlusion amblyopia causing severe obstruction of central vision as determined by a physician
- **Brow Lift (67900)** is considered medically necessary for **ALL** of the following:
 - brow ptosis is causing functional visual impairment confirmed by photographs demonstrating that the eyebrow is below the supraorbital rim
 - individual complains of interference with vision or visual field, difficulty reading due to upper eyelid drooping, looking through eyelashes or seeing upper eyelid skin
- A combination of **ANY** of the above procedures is considered medically necessary when the medical necessity criteria for each procedure are met and **ALL** of the following additional criteria are met:
 - visual field testing demonstrates visual impairment that cannot be addressed by one procedure alone
 - lateral and full-face photographs with attempts at 1) brow elevation and, 2) upward gaze (i.e., with the brow relaxed) support the request
 - findings consistent with visual field loss documented on visual field testing

Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Surgical 13

| Coding | Description |
|--------|---|
| 15820 | Blepharoplasty, lower eyelid |
| 15821 | Blepharoplasty, lower eyelid; with extensive herniated fat pad |
| 15822 | Blepharoplasty, upper eyelid |
| 15823 | Blepharoplasty, upper eyelid; with excessive skin weighting down lid |
| 67900 | Repair of brow ptosis (supraciliary, mid-forehead or coronal approach) |
| 67901 | Repair of blepharoptosis; frontalis muscle technique with suture or other material (eg, banked fascia) |
| 67902 | Repair of blepharoptosis; frontalis muscle technique with autologous fascial sling(includes obtaining fascia) |
| 67903 | Repair of blepharoptosis; (tarso) levator resection or advancement, internal approach |
| 67904 | Repair of blepharoptosis; (tarso) levator resection or advancement, external approach |
| 67906 | Repair of blepharoptosis; superior rectus technique with fascial sling (includes obtaining fascia) |
| 67908 | Repair of blepharoptosis; conjunctivo-tarso-Muller's muscle-levator resection (eg,Fasanella-Servat type) |
| 67909 | Reduction of overcorrection of ptosis |
| 67914 | Repair of ectropion; suture |
| 67915 | Repair of ectropion; thermocauterization |
| 67916 | Repair of ectropion; excision tarsal wedge |
| 67917 | Repair of ectropion; extensive (eg, tarsal strip operations) |
| 67921 | Repair of entropion; suture |
| 67922 | Repair of entropion; thermocauterization |
| 67923 | Repair of entropion; excision tarsal wedge |
| 67924 | Repair of entropion; extensive (eg, tarsal strip or capsulopalpebral fasciarepairs operation) |

Considered Not Medically Necessary:

| Coding | Description |
|--------|-------------|
| | None |

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

Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2024: April
- 2023: July
- 2022: April
- 2020: June
- 2019: November
- 2016: January, February
- 2015: May, October
- 2013: June
- 2009: June
- 2008: August
- 2005: September

- 2003: October

Reviewed Dates:

- 2023: April
- 2021: May
- 2018: July, November
- 2017: November
- 2016: June
- 2015: June
- 2014: June
- 2012: June
- 2011: June
- 2010: June
- 2004: October

Effective Date:

- October 1991

References:

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Special Notes: *

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.

Services mean both medical and behavioral health (mental health) services and supplies unless We specifically tell You otherwise. We do not cover any services that are not listed in the Covered Services section unless required to be covered under state or federal laws and regulations. We do not cover any services that are not Medically Necessary. We sometimes give examples of specific services that are not covered but that does not mean that other similar services are covered. Some services are covered only if We authorize them. When We say You or Your We mean You and any of Your family members covered under the Plan. Call Member Services if You have questions.

Keywords:

Blepharoplasty, Surgical 13, eyelid margin, blepharospasm, Visual field testing, vision, Facial nerve palsy, periorbital laxity, thyroid disease, eyeball, anophthalmic socket, eyelid dermatitis, prosthesis, SHP Surgical 211 (archived), Herring's law, SHP Surgical 212 (archived), Blepharoptosis, and Brow Lift