

Ophthalmic Procedures

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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 Ophthalmic Procedures.

- Canaloplasty (**ab interno**) - OMNI, iTrack, Ellex, ABiC is covered upon request

Description & Definitions:

Cataracts – are the clouding of the eyes natural lens causing blurry vision or glaring of light.

Glaucoma - a medical condition where there is increased pressure in the eyeball causing optic nerve damage. There are several procedures to alleviate this condition.

Canaloplasty (Ab Interno Canaloplasty (ABiC) is a less invasive surgery to insert a micro-catheter to open the natural eye canal to drain fluid, reducing intraocular pressure (IOP).

Aqueous Shunt is a device inserted to promote drainage of fluid reducing intraocular pressure. (Ahmed glaucoma implant, Baerveldt seton, Glaucoma pressure regulator, Ex-PRESS Mini Glaucoma Shunt, Krupin-Denver valve implant, Molteno implant, Schocket shunt)

Micro-Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS) is group of surgical interventions performed ab interno to reduce complications and increased rate of a rapid recovery. The devices are placed into the eyes to help open and enlarge drainage for IOP.

- **Trabecular meshwork bypass by implant** Hydrus, iStent, or iStent inject device, XEN45
- **Trabecular meshwork bypass by tissue excision, no implant** is required and these goniotomy/trabeculotomy procedures
 - **Trabeculotomy** (i.e., **Goniotomy**, trabeculotomy ab interno) the creation of a new channel for drain the buildup of fluid from the eye causing intraocular pressure (IOP) through the Trabecular meshwork.
 - Kahook Dual Blade Goniotomy
 - Trabectome
 - Gonioscopy Assisted Transluminal Trabeculotomy (GATT)
 - OMNI (TRAB 360, Visco 360, STREAMLINE)

Other Ophthalmic Procedures:

Combined glaucoma and cataract surgery

Iris and Retinal prosthesis are the replacement of the iris or retina=

Intracanalicular plugs are small, absorbable polyethylene glycol hydrogel plugs that are used to deliver a sustained, therapeutic level of medication to targeted ocular tissue. The intracanalicular plug is

designed to be absorbed and exit the nasolacrimal system without need for removal. The plugs contain a visualization agent for retention monitoring throughout the treatment period.

Criteria:

Ophthalmic surgical procedures are considered medically necessary for **1 or more** of the following:

- **Glaucoma surgery** for individual with request for **1 or more** of the following:
 - **Aqueous drainage/shunt implants** with an extraocular reservoir for refractory glaucoma (including but not limited to: (Ahmed glaucoma implant, Baerveldt seton, Glaucoma pressure regulator, Ex-PRESS Mini Glaucoma Shunt, Krupin-Denver valve implant, Molteno implant, Schocket shunt) for **All of the** following:
 - Individual with refractory primary open-angle glaucoma
 - At least one of first-line drugs have failed to control intra-ocular pressure
 - At least one of second-line drugs have failed to control intra-ocular pressure
 - FDA approved device
 - **Micro-Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS)** may be covered for **1 or more** of the following:
 - **Canaloplasty**, whether performed (ab externo or ab interno (OMNI, iTrack, Ellex, and ABiC)) for **all of the** following:
 - Individual with diagnosis of primary open-angle glaucoma
 - **Endocyclophotocoagulation (ECP) or Transscleral Cyclophotocoagulation** for the treatment of glaucoma for **All of the** following:
 - mild to severe or refractory
 - As a last resort when all other treatments have failed.
 - **Hydrus®, iStent®, or iStent inject® device** (one per eye) for **ALL of the** following:
 - Adult with mild or moderate open-angle glaucoma and a cataract
 - Individual's current treatment plan includes ocular hypotensive medication
 - Procedure is being performed with cataract surgery
 - **XEN45® device** (one per eye) for **ALL of the** following:
 - Management of refractory glaucoma, as indicated by 1 or more of the following:
 - Previous surgery has surgical treatment has failed
 - Primary open glaucoma
 - Unresponsive to medical therapy
- **Dextenza** (Dexamethasone Intracanalicular Ophthalmic Insert) may be covered for **1 or more** of the following:
 - Treatment of ocular inflammation and pain following ophthalmic surgery
- **Implantable miniature telescope (IMT) 0308T** for monocular implantation in members aged 65 years and older with stable, untreatable, severe-to-profound central vision impairment caused by blind spots (bilateral central scotoma) associated with end-stage Age-Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD) as determined by fluorescein angiography when **ALL of the** following are met:
 - **Achieve at least a 5-letter improvement on the Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study (ETDRS) visual acuity chart in the eye scheduled for surgery using an external telescope**
 - **Adequate peripheral vision in the eye not scheduled for surgery, to allow for orientation and mobility**
 - **Agree to undergo 2 to 4 pre-surgical training sessions with low vision specialist (optometrist or occupational therapist)**
 - **Evidence of a visually significant cataract (grade 2 or higher)**
 - **No active wet ARMD (no sign of active choroidal neovascularization in either eye)**
 - **No sign of eye disease other than well-controlled glaucoma**
 - **Not been treated for wet ARMD in the previous 6 months**

- **Visual acuity poorer than 20/160, but not worse than 20/800 in both eyes**
- **Willingness to participate in a post-operative visual rehabilitation program**

Ophthalmic procedures is considered not medically necessary for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria, to include but not limited to:

- Beta Radiation
- Clear lens extraction
- Combined phacoemulsification and viscocanalostomy
- Computer-aided animation and analysis of time series retinal images for the monitoring of disease progression, unilateral or bilateral, with interpretation and report
- CyPass Micro-Stent
- Device without FDA approval.
- Evacuation of Meibomian Glands
- Fistulization of sclera for glaucoma, through ciliary body
- Insertion of iris prosthesis
- Measurement of ocular blood flow by repetitive intraocular pressure sampling, with interpretation and report
- Micro Shunt EyePass
- Monitoring of intraocular pressure for 24 hours or longer, unilateral or bilateral
- Near-infrared dual imaging of meibomian glands
- Placement of a subconjunctival retinal prosthesis receiver and pulse generator, and implantation of intra-ocular retinal electrode array, with vitrectomy
- Retinal prosthesis/ARGUS
- SOLX® Gold Shunt
- Suprachoroidal injection of a pharmacologic agent
- Suprachoroidal shunt
- Tear film imaging
- Transciliary Filtration (e.g., Fugo Blade transciliary filtration, Singh filtration) (66999)
- Upgrades to any basic or standard lens or premium intraocular lenses or Intraocular lens implant (i.e., monofocal IOL, multifocal IOL, or accommodating IOL) for the correction of refractive error including but not limited to:
 - Accommodating posterior chamber IOLs (e.g., Crystalens);
 - Multi-focal posterior chamber IOLs (Array Model SA40, ReZoom, AcrySof ReSTOR, Tecnis ZM900 and ZMAOO, AcrySof ReSTOR, Acrysof Restor SA60D3 multifocal, Acrysof Natural ReSTOR SN60D3, AcrySof ReSTOR Aspheric IOL model SN6AD1, AcrySof ReSTOR Aspheric IOL model SN6AD3;
 - Astigmatism-correcting (toric) posterior chamber IOLs-- Staar Toric IOL, Staar Elastic Toric Lens Model AA4203TL, AcrySof Toric IOL, AcrySof Aspheric Toric IOL SN6AT3, SN6AT4 and SN6AT5, AcrySof Toric Models SA60T3, SA60T4 and SA60T5, AcrySof Toric Model SA60T, and Acrysof IQ Toric Model SN6ATT)., Tecnis Toric intraocular lens.
- Viscocanalostomy
- Visual evoked potential, testing for glaucoma
- MIGs procedures for any other indications.

Dexamethasone Intracanalicular Ophthalmic Insert (Dextenza) are considered Not Medically Necessary and NOT COVERED for ANY of the following:

- Individual with active corneal, conjunctival, or canalicular infection (including epithelial herpes simplex keratitis (dendritic keratitis), vaccinia, or varicella)
- Individual with mycobacterial infection of eye
- Individual with fungal disease of eye
- Individual with dacryocystitis

Intracanalicular inserts other than Dextenza are considered **Not Medically Necessary** and **NOT COVERED** for **ANY** of the following:

- Individual with active corneal, conjunctival, or canalicular infection (including epithelial herpes simplex keratitis (dendritic keratitis), vaccinia, or varicella)
- Individual with mycobacterial infection of eye
- Individual with fungal disease of eye
- Individual with dacryocystitis

Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

| Coding | Description |
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| 65855 | Trabeculectomy by laser surgery |
| 66150 | Fistulization of sclera for glaucoma; trephination with iridectomy |
| 66155 | Fistulization of sclera for glaucoma; thermocauterization with iridectomy |
| 66160 | Fistulization of sclera for glaucoma; sclerectomy with punch or scissors, with iridectomy |
| 66170 | Fistulization of sclera for glaucoma; trabeculectomy ab externo in absence of previous surgery |
| 66172 | Fistulization of sclera for glaucoma; trabeculectomy ab externo with scarring from previous ocular surgery or trauma (includes injection of antifibrotic agents) |
| 66174 | Transluminal dilation of aqueous outflow canal; without retention of device or stent |
| 66175 | Transluminal dilation of aqueous outflow canal; with retention of device or stent |
| 66179 | Aqueous shunt to extraocular equatorial plate reservoir, external approach; without graft |
| 66180 | Aqueous shunt to extraocular equatorial plate reservoir, external approach; with graft |
| 66183 | Insertion of anterior segment aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir, external approach |
| 66184 | Revision of aqueous shunt to extraocular equatorial plate reservoir; without graft |
| 66185 | Revision of aqueous shunt to extraocular equatorial plate reservoir; with graft |
| 66710 | Ciliary body destruction; cyclophotocoagulation, transscleral |
| 66711 | Ciliary body destruction; cyclophotocoagulation, endoscopic, without concomitant removal of crystalline lens |
| 66820 | Discission of secondary membranous cataract (opacified posterior lens capsule and/or anterior hyaloid); stab incision technique (Ziegler or Wheeler knife) |
| 66821 | Discission of secondary membranous cataract (opacified posterior lens capsule and/or anterior hyaloid); laser surgery (eg, YAG laser) (1 or more stages) |
| 66825 | Repositioning of intraocular lens prosthesis, requiring an incision (separate procedure) |

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| 66830 | Removal of secondary membranous cataract (opacified posterior lens capsule and/or anterior hyaloid) with corneo-scleral section, with or without iridectomy (iridocapsulotomy, iridocapsulectomy) |
| 66840 | Removal of lens material; aspiration technique, 1 or more stages |
| 66850 | Removal of lens material; phacofragmentation technique (mechanical or ultrasonic) (eg, phacoemulsification), with aspiration |
| 66852 | Removal of lens material; pars plana approach, with or without vitrectomy |
| 66920 | Removal of lens material; intracapsular |
| 66930 | Removal of lens material; intracapsular, for dislocated lens |
| 66940 | Removal of lens material; extracapsular (other than 66840, 66850, 66852) |
| 66982 | Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1-stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification), complex, requiring devices or techniques not generally used in routine cataract surgery (eg, iris expansion device, suture support for intraocular lens, or primary posterior capsulorrhexis) or performed on patients in the amblyogenic developmental stage; without endoscopic cyclophotocoagulation |
| 66983 | Intracapsular cataract extraction with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1 stage procedure) |
| 66984 | Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1 stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification); without endoscopic cyclophotocoagulation |
| 66987 | Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1-stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification), complex, requiring devices or techniques not generally used in routine cataract surgery (eg, iris expansion device, suture support for intraocular lens, or primary posterior capsulorrhexis) or performed on patients in the amblyogenic developmental stage; with endoscopic cyclophotocoagulation |
| 66988 | Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1 stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification); with endoscopic cyclophotocoagulation |
| 66989 | Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1-stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification), complex, requiring devices or techniques not generally used in routine cataract surgery (eg, iris expansion device, suture support for intraocular lens, or primary posterior capsulorrhexis) or performed on patients in the amblyogenic developmental stage; with insertion of intraocular (eg, trabecular meshwork, supraciliary, suprachoroidal) anterior segment aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir, internal approach, one or more |
| 66991 | Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1 stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification); with insertion of intraocular (eg, trabecular meshwork, supraciliary, suprachoroidal) anterior segment aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir, internal approach, one or more |
| 68841 | Insertion of drug-eluting implant, including punctal dilation when performed, into lacrimal canaliculus, each |
| 0308T | Insertion of ocular telescope prosthesis including removal of crystalline lens or intraocular lens prosthesis |

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| 0449T | Insertion of aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir, internal approach, into the subconjunctival space; initial device |
| 0450T | Insertion of aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir, internal approach, into the subconjunctival space; each additional device (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) |
| 0671T | Insertion of anterior segment aqueous drainage device into the trabecular meshwork, without external reservoir, and without concomitant cataract removal, one or more |

Considered Not Medically Necessary:

| Coding | Description |
|--------|--|
| 66999 | Unlisted procedure, anterior segment of eye |
| 92499 | Unlisted ophthalmological service or procedure |
| 0100T | Placement of a subconjunctival retinal prosthesis receiver and pulse generator, and implantation of intra-ocular retinal electrode array, with vitrectomy |
| 0198T | Measurement of ocular blood flow by repetitive intraocular pressure sampling, with interpretation and report |
| 0207T | Evacuation of meibomian glands, automated, using heat and intermittent pressure, unilateral |
| 0253T | Insertion of anterior segment aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir, internal approach, into the suprachoroidal space |
| 0329T | Monitoring of intraocular pressure for 24 hours or longer, unilateral or bilateral, with interpretation and report |
| 0330T | Tear film imaging, unilateral or bilateral, with interpretation and report |
| 0464T | Visual evoked potential, testing for glaucoma, with interpretation and report |
| 0465T | Suprachoroidal injection of a pharmacologic agent (does not include supply of medication) |
| 0472T | Device evaluation, interrogation, and initial programming of intraocular retinal electrode array (eg, retinal prosthesis), in person, with iterative adjustment of the implantable device to test functionality, select optimal permanent programmed values with analysis, including visual training, with review and report by a qualified health care professional |
| 0473T | Device evaluation and interrogation of intraocular retinal electrode array (eg, retinal prosthesis), in person, including reprogramming and visual training, when performed, with review and report by a qualified health care professional |
| 0474T | Insertion of anterior segment aqueous drainage device, with creation of intraocular reservoir, internal approach, into the supraciliary space |
| 0507T | Near-infrared dual imaging (ie, simultaneous reflective and trans-illuminated light) of meibomian glands, unilateral or bilateral, with interpretation and report |
| 0563T | Evacuation of meibomian glands, using heat delivered through wearable, open-eye eyelid treatment devices and manual gland expression, bilateral |
| 0616T | Insertion of iris prosthesis, including suture fixation and repair or removal of iris, when performed; without removal of crystalline lens or intraocular lens, without insertion of intraocular lens |
| 0617T | Insertion of iris prosthesis, including suture fixation and repair or removal of iris, when performed; with removal of crystalline lens and insertion of intraocular lens |
| 0618T | Insertion of iris prosthesis, including suture fixation and repair or removal of iris, when performed; with secondary intraocular lens placement or intraocular lens exchange |
| 0621T | Trabeculectomy ab interno by laser |
| 0622T | Trabeculectomy ab interno by laser; with use of ophthalmic endoscope |

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| 0671T | Insertion of anterior segment aqueous drainage device into the trabecular meshwork, without external reservoir, and without concomitant cataract removal, one or more |
| 0730T | Trabeculotomy by laser, including optical coherence tomography (OCT) guidance |

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

Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2024: February
- 2022: March, July, September
- 2021: February, June
- 2020: June, October
- 2016: February
- 2015: January, April, September, October, November
- 2014: January, March, July, August, November
- 2013: January, February, April, November
- 2012: January, May
- 2011: November
- 2010: June, September
- 2009: May
- 2008: May

Reviewed Dates:

- 2023: February
- 2019: August
- 2017: March, November
- 2016: March, September
- 2011: May
- 2010: May
- 2007: October
- 2001: December
- 2000: December
- 1999: November
- 1998: November
- 1996: August

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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:

Cataract Procedures, SHP Surgical 60, cataract, ophthalmic, ocular, implant, intracapsular, extracapsular, lens, laser, SHP Glaucoma Procedures, Ophthalmic Procedures, Aqueous shunt, aqueous drainage devices, Microstent Bypass, Canaloplasty, Endoscopic Cyclophotocoagulation, Transscleral Cyclophotocoagulation, open-angle glaucoma, glaucoma, trabeculectomy, tube shunt procedures, intra-ocular pressure, Xen, Ahmed glaucoma implant, Baerveldt seton, Glaucoma pressure regulator, Ex-PRESS Mini Glaucoma Shunt, Krupin-Denver valve implant, Molteno implant, Schocket shunt, Laser trabeculectomy, ab interno