

Corneal Cross-Linking

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[Effective Date](#) 6/1992
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[Coverage Policy](#) Medical 264
[Version](#) 4

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 Corneal Cross-Linking.

Description & Definitions:

Corneal cross-linking is a minimally-invasive procedure to build up the cornea if it has been damaged by keratoconus or other diseases using collagen and ultraviolet A (UVA) light to bond.

Criteria:

Corneal collagen cross-linkage using riboflavin and ultraviolet A is considered medically necessary for treatment of individuals with **1 or more** of the following:

- Progressive keratoconus
- Corneal ectasia after refractive surgery in individuals who have failed conservative treatment (eg. optometric correction, rigid contact lens)

Corneal Cross-Linking is considered not medically necessary for any use other than those indicated in clinical criteria.

Coding:

Medically necessary with criteria:

Coding	Description
0402T	Collagen cross-linking of cornea, including removal of the corneal epithelium and intraoperative pachymetry, when performed (Report medication separately).

Considered Not Medically Necessary:

Coding	Description
	None

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

Document History:

Revised Dates:

- 2020: January
- 2016: February
- 2015: March
- 2014: February
- 2012: March, April, May
- 2010: February
- 2009: February
- 2008: May
- 2005: October
- 1998: February, October
- 1994: February

Reviewed Dates:

- 2023: January
- 2022: January
- 2021: January
- 2018: February
- 2017: December
- 2015: February
- 2013: February
- 2012: February
- 2011: February
- 2007: December
- 2004: October
- 2003: October, November
- 2002: October
- 2001: November
- 2000: November
- 1999: November
- 1996: February

Effective Date:

- June 1992

References:

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

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Conventional Corneal Collagen Cross-Linking for Treatment Of LASIK-Related Ectasia - Apr 21, 2021. (n.d.). Retrieved Dec 28, 2021, from Hayes 2: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/dir.cornealcollagen4277>

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 Corneal Cross-Linking, SHP Medical 264, SHP Medical 03, SHP Medical 3, Keratoconus Lenses and Interventions, Piggyback Contact Lenses, Keratoconus, Keratectasia, ultraviolet, riboflavin, corneal cross-linking, CXL, epithelium-off, Conventional, C-CXL, Dresden protocol, Transepithelial Crosslinking, T-CXL, Iontophoresis-assisted Crosslinking, I-CXL, Lenticule-assisted Crosslinking, Contact lens-assisted Crosslinking, CACXL, Individualized Corneal Crosslinking, Keratoconus treatment