I. Policy: Blepharoplasty, Blepharoptosis and Brow Ptosis Repair

II. Purpose/Objective:
To provide a policy of coverage regarding Blepharoplasty, Blepharoptosis and Brow Ptosis Repair

III. Responsibility:
A. Medical Directors
B. Medical Management

IV. Required Definitions
1. Attachment – a supporting document that is developed and maintained by the policy writer or department requiring/authoring the policy.
2. Exhibit – a supporting document developed and maintained in a department other than the department requiring/authoring the policy.
3. Devised – the date the policy was implemented.
4. Revised – the date of every revision to the policy, including typographical and grammatical changes.
5. Reviewed – the date documenting the annual review if the policy has no revisions necessary.

V. Additional Definitions
Medical Necessity or Medically Necessary means Covered Services rendered by a Health Care Provider that the Plan determines are:

a. appropriate for the symptoms and diagnosis or treatment of the Member's condition, illness, disease or injury;
b. provided for the diagnosis, and the direct care and treatment of the Member's condition, illness disease or injury;
c. in accordance with current standards of good medical treatment practiced by the general medical community.
d. not primarily for the convenience of the Member, or the Member's Health Care Provider; and
e. the most appropriate source or level of service that can safely be provided to the Member. When applied to hospitalization, this further means that the Member requires acute care as an inpatient due to the nature of the services rendered or the Member's condition, and the Member cannot receive safe or adequate care as an outpatient.

Medicaid Business Segment
Medical Necessity shall mean a service or benefit that is compensable under the Medical Assistance Program and if it meets any one of the following standards:

(i) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, prevent the onset of an illness, condition or disability.
(ii) The service or benefit will, or is reasonably expected to, reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental or development effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability.
(iii) The service or benefit will assist the Member to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity in performing daily activities, taking into account both the functional capacity of the Member and those functional capacities that are appropriate for members of the same age.
DESCRIPTION:
Blepharoplasty can be defined as any eyelid surgery that improves abnormal function, reconstructs deformities, or enhances appearance. It may be either reconstructive or cosmetic. When blepharoplasty is performed to improve appearance in the absence of any documented functional abnormalities, the procedure is considered cosmetic. When blepharoplasty is performed to correct visual impairment caused by drooping eyelids (ptosis), repair defects caused by trauma or tumor-ablative surgery (ectropion/entropion corneal exposure), treat periorbital sequelae of thyroid disease and nerve palsy or the relief of painful blepharospasm, the procedure is considered to be reconstructive. Blepharoptosis is an abnormal low-lying upper eyelid margin with the eye in primary gaze. This condition can be the result of nerve palsy or dysfunction of the levator muscles. Brow ptosis is the decent of the brow and brow fat pad and occurs with advancing age or as the result of nerve or muscle dysfunction.

INDICATIONS: REQUIRES PRIOR MEDICAL DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE AUTHORIZATION
The following indications may be considered medically necessary when the criteria for coverage are met:

- Pseudoptosis causing visual impairment
- True ptosis with dermatochalaisis
- Primary idiopathic blepharospasm
- Cranial nerve palsy
- Thyroid disease
- Brow ptosis causing visual impairment

CRITERIA FOR COVERAGE:

Blepharoplasty (15822, 15823):
The requesting provider must submit the following information:

- Documentation that redundant or drooping upper eyelid tissue is a primary contributory factor in the member’s visual field impairment; and
- Visual fields
  Note: Visual fields must be recorded using either a tangent screen visual field, Goldmann Perimeter (III 4-E test object) or a programmable automated perimeter and demonstrate reproducible upper or temporal field loss within 30 degrees of fixation. Each eye should be tested with the upper eyelid at rest to demonstrate the degree of impairment. There is no need to tape the lids to demonstrate an expected surgical improvement.

Blepharoptosis repair (67901, 67902, 67903, 67904, 67906, 67908):
The requesting provider must submit the following information:

- Documentation that laxity or dysfunction of the muscles of the upper eyelid are causing functional impairment; and
- Documentation that the upper eyelid margin approaches to within 2.5 mm (1/4 of the diameter of the visible iris) of the corneal light reflex (marginal reflex distance or MRD).

Brow ptosis repair (67900):

- Documentation that other causes of the visual field impairment have been ruled out; and
- Visual fields
  Note: Visual fields must be recorded using either a tangent screen visual field, Goldmann Perimeter (III 4-E test object) or a programmable automated perimeter and demonstrate reproducible upper or temporal field loss within 30 degrees of fixation. Each eye should be tested with the upper eyelid at rest to demonstrate the degree of impairment. There is no need to tape the lids to demonstrate an expected surgical improvement.

Note: blepharoptosis repair (67901-67908) includes blepharoplasty (15820,15821). When the bundled code 67901-67908 is reimbursed, 15820,15821 should not be billed to the member. Ptosis repair includes blepharoplasty when performed on the same eye lid.

The following indications may be considered medically necessary when physician generated documentation is provided to support any of the following conditions:

- Upper eyelid position contributes to difficulty tolerating a prosthesis in an anophthalmic socket.
- Upper-eyelid defect caused by trauma, congenital defect, tumor or ablative surgery resulting in a severe lid deformity and functional visual impairment
- Essential blepharospasm or hemifacial spasm.
- Significant ptosis in the downgaze reading position.
Canthoplasty/Canthopexy (21280, 21282)

- Reconstruction of the eyelid following surgical resection of lesions (benign or malignant) of the medial or lateral canthus; or
- as an adjunct to a medically necessary ectropion or entropion repair

EXCLUSIONS:

Blepharoplasty performed primarily for the purpose of enhancing one’s appearance is considered cosmetic surgery and is NOT COVERED.

Upper eyelid “hooding” that is not contributory to the visual field impairment is considered cosmetic and is NOT COVERED.

Lower lid blepharoplasty is typically considered cosmetic and will not be covered. Individual consideration for medical necessity (e.g., neoplasm, ectropion, etc.) for lower lid blepharoplasty will be made by a Plan Medical Director.

Note: A complete description of the process by which a given technology or service is evaluated and determined to be experimental, investigational or unproven is outlined in MP 15 - Experimental Investigational or Unproven Services or Treatment.

CODING ASSOCIATED WITH: Blepharoplasty

The following codes are included below for informational purposes and may not be all inclusive. Inclusion of a procedure or device code(s) does not constitute or imply coverage nor does it imply or guarantee provider reimbursement. Coverage is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable laws regarding coverage of specific services. Please note that per Medicare coverage rules, only specific CPT/HCPCS Codes may be covered for the Medicare Business Segment. Please consult the CMS website at www.cms.gov or the local Medicare Administrative Carrier (MAC) for more information on Medicare coverage and coding requirements.

15820 Blepharoplasty, lower lid
15821 Blepharoplasty, lower lid; with extensive herniated fat pad
15822 Blepharoplasty; upper eyelid
15823 with excessive skin weighing down lid
21280 medial canthopexy
21282 lateral canthopexy
67900 Repair of brow ptosis (supraciliary, mid-forehead or coronal approach)
67901 Repair of blepharoptosis; frontalis muscle technique with suture or other material
67902 frontalis muscle technique with fascial sling (includes obtaining fascia)
67903 (tarso) levator resection or advancement, internal approach
67904 (tarso) levator resection or advancement, external approach
67906 superior rectus technique with fascial sling (includes obtaining fascia)
67908 conjuntivo-tarso-Muller's muscle-levator resection (e.g., Fasanella-Servat type)
67909 reduction of overcorrection of ptosis
67911 correction of lid retraction
67914 repair of ectropion; suture
67915 repair of ectropion; thermocauterization
67916 repair of ectropion; excision tarsal wedge
67917 repair of ectropion; extensive (e.g., 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 (e.g., tarsal strip or capsulopalpebral fascia repairs operation)


LINE OF BUSINESS:

Eligibility and contract specific benefits, limitations and/or exclusions will apply. Coverage statements found in the line of business specific benefit document will supersede this policy. For Medicare, applicable LCD’s and NCD’s will supercede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.
REFERENCES:


Novitas Solutions, Inc. Local Carrier Determination (LCD) for Surgery: Blepharoplasty (L35004). Accessed. 1/24/17


This policy will be revised as necessary and reviewed no less than annually.

Devised: 10/15/00

Revised: 08/08/01, 08/02 (criteria clarification); 5/03 (coding, definition), 5/04 (criteria clarification); 5/05; 5/06; 5/07, 5/08, 5/09 (coding), 5/10 (Ind. Wording), 5/12 (removed Intrinsic eyelid deformities indication), 6/13; 2/14 (update criteria); 2/16 (remove photograph requirement); 6/18 (clarification of criteria); 6/20 (add cathoplasty/canthopexy)

Reviewed: 5/11, 3/15, 2/17, 2/18, 5/19

Geisinger Health Plan may refer collectively to health care coverage sponsors Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Quality Options, Inc., and Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company, unless otherwise noted. Geisinger Health Plan is part of Geisinger, an integrated health care delivery and coverage organization.