Policy: MP083
Section: Medical Benefit Policy
Subject: Contact Lenses

I. Policy: Contact Lenses

II. Purpose/Objective:
To provide a policy of coverage regarding Contact Lenses

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.

*Chronic condition* - An illness which frequently recurs or persists for a period in excess of 3 months

**DESCRIPTION:**
Contact lenses are considered medical devices and can be worn to correct refractive error, for cosmetic or therapeutic reasons. A rigid, gas-permeable contact lens is able to replace the natural shape of the cornea with a new refracting surface or to correct for corneal irregularities. Soft hydrophilic contact lenses are used for correction of refractive error and as moist corneal bandages for the treatment of acute or chronic corneal pathology.

**INDICATIONS:**
**For Commercial Business Segment:**
Therapeutic soft (hydrophilic) contact lenses may be considered medically necessary when used as moist corneal bandages for the treatment of acute corneal abrasion, corneal ulcers and erosion, poorly healing eye wounds, or for other therapeutic reasons as determined by a Plan medical director.

Contact lenses, including gas-permeable rigid contact lenses (known as RGP or GP lenses), are covered for the treatment of progressive eye diseases, including but not limited to keratoconus.

**EXCLUSIONS:**
Contact lenses required solely due to correct refractive changes are **NOT COVERED.**

Supplies used in conjunction with non-covered services are **NOT COVERED**

**For Medicare Business Segment:**
Hydrophilic contact lenses are covered as a prosthetic device when prescribed for an aphakic beneficiary.

Hydrophilic contact lenses are considered medically necessary when used as moist corneal bandages for the treatment of acute or chronic corneal pathology (eg., bullous keratopathy, dry eyes, corneal ulcers and erosion, keratitis, corneal edema, descemetocele, corneal ectasia, Mooren's ulcer, anterior corneal dystrophy, neurotrophic keratoconjunctivitis, or for other therapeutic reasons as determined by a Plan medical director.)

Scleral shell may be considered medically necessary for

- In eyes rendered sightless and shrunken by inflammatory disease, a scleral shell may eliminate the need for surgical enucleation and prosthetic implant, and act to support the surrounding orbital tissue. In such a case, the device serves as an artificial eye. In this situation, payment may be made for a scleral shell under §1861(s)(8) of the Act.

- When used in combination with artificial tears in the treatment of "dry eye" of diverse etiology. The lens acts in this instance to substitute for the functioning of the diseased lacrimal gland and would be covered as a prosthetic device in the rare case when it is used in the treatment of "dry eye."

**EXCLUSIONS:**
Hydrophilic contact lenses are eyeglasses within the meaning of the exclusion in §1862(a)(7) of the Act and are not covered when used in the treatment of non-diseased eyes with spherical ametropia, refractive astigmatism, and/or corneal astigmatism.

**For Medicaid Business Segment:**
Contact lenses are considered to be medically necessary for the following conditions:

- Correction of refractive error
- Aphakia (congenital or surgical)
- Congenital cataracts
- Keratoconus (if vision cannot be corrected to 20/40 or better with eyeglasses)
- Anisometropia or Antimetropia when the difference is two diopters or greater and results in aniseikonia
- As moist corneal bandages for the treatment of acute or chronic corneal pathology (eg., bullous keratopathy, dry eyes, corneal ulcers and erosion, keratitis, corneal edema, descemetocele, corneal ectasia, Mooren's ulcer, anterior corneal dystrophy, neurotrophic keratoconjunctivitis, or for other therapeutic reasons as determined by a Plan medical director.)
- Ocular conditions as determined by Plan Medical Director which have no alternative treatment
Scleral shell may be considered medically necessary for

- Eyes rendered sightless and shrunken by inflammatory disease, and a scleral shell may obviate the need for surgical enucleation and prosthetic implant and act to support the surrounding orbital tissue. In such a case, the device serves essentially as an artificial eye. In this situation, payment may be made for a scleral shell under §1861(s)(8) of the Act.

- When used in combination with artificial tears in the treatment of “dry eye” of diverse etiology. The lens acts in this instance to substitute for the functioning of the diseased lacrimal gland and would be covered as a prosthetic device in the rare case when it is used in the treatment of “dry eye.”

For CHIP Business Segment:

Prescription contact lenses are covered.

LIMITATIONS: One pair of contact lenses every 6 months. Financial limits may apply as outlined in the benefit document.

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: Hydrophilic Contact Lenses

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.

92310 Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of and fitting of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation; corneal lens, both eyes, except for aphakia
92311 Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of and fitting of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation; corneal lens for aphakia, one eye
92312 Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of and fitting of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation; corneal lens for aphakia, both eyes
92313 Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of and fitting of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation; corneoscleral lens
92314 Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation and direction of fitting by independent technician; corneal lens, both eyes except for aphakia
92315 Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation and direction of fitting by independent technician; corneal lens for aphakia, 1 eye
92316 Corneal lens for aphakia, both eyes
92317 Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation and direction of fitting by independent technician; corneoscleral lens
92326 Replacement of contact lens
92071 Fitting of contact lens for treatment of ocular surface disease
92072 Fitting of contact lens for management of keratoconus, initial fitting

V2520 Contact lens, hydrophilic, spherical, per lens
V2521 Contact lens, hydrophilic, toric, or prism ballast, per lens
V2523 Contact lens, hydrophilic, extended wear, per lens
V2530 Contact lens, scleral, gas impermeable, per lens
V2531 Contact lens, scleral, gas permeable, per lens
V2627 Scleral cover shell
V2599 Contact lens, other type

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 supersede this policy. For PA Medicaid Business segment, this policy applies as written.

REFERENCES:


Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Hydrophilic Contact lens for Corneal Bandage (80.1)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Hydrophilic Contact Lenses (80.4)

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Scleral Shell (80.5)

Noridian Local Carrier Determination (LCD L33793 Refractive Lenses

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

Devised: 12/92

Revised: 9/02; 11/13, 2/20 (add gas-permeable rigid contact lens coverage)