Medical Coverage Policy | Intravitreal and Punctum Corticosteroid Implants

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10|01|2026
POLICY LAST REVIEWED: 06|17|2026

OVERVIEW

An intravitreal implant is a drug delivery system, injected or surgically implanted in the vitreous of the eye, for sustained release of drug to the posterior and intermediate segments of the eye. Four intravitreal corticosteroid implants, ie, fluocinolone acetonide 0.59 mg (Retisert), fluocinolone acetonide 0.19 mg (Iluvien), fluocinolone acetonide 0.18 mg (Yutiq), and dexamethasone 0.7 mg (Ozurdex) are reviewed herein. Fluocinolone acetonide implants are nonerodible and deliver drug up to 30 to 36 months while dexamethasone implants are bioerodible and last up to 6 months. A punctum implant is a drug delivery device that is inserted through the lower lacrimal punctum into the canaliculus, for sustained release of a pharmacologic agent to the ocular surface. Dexamethasone ophthalmic insert 0.4 mg (Dextenza) is the first corticosteroid intracanalicular insert and is reviewed herein.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Effective 10/1/2026, the following CPT/HCPCS codes will be covered for Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products:

- J7311 (Retisert)
- J7312 (Ozurdex)
- J7313 (Iluvien)
- J7314 (Yutiq)
- J1096 (Dextenza)
- 68841

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable physician administered injectable drug benefits/coverage.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable

CODING

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

The following CPT/HCPCS code(s) are covered for Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products and prior authorization is not required:

J1096 Dexamethasone, lacrimal ophthalmic insert, 0.1 mg
J7311 Injection, fluocinolone acetonide, intravitreal implant (Retisert), 0.01 mg
J7312 Injection, dexamethasone, intravitreal implant, 0.1 mg
J7313 Injection, fluocinolone acetonide, intravitreal implant (Iluvien), 0.01 mg
J7314 Injection, fluocinolone acetonide, intravitreal implant (Yutiq), 0.01 mg
68841 Insertion of drug-eluting implant, including punctal dilation when performed, into lacrimal canaliculus, each

RELATED POLICIES
Pharmacy – Post Claim Review Medications

PUBLISHED
Provider Update, August 2026
Provider Update, June 2025
Provider Update, August 2024
Provider Update, May/September 2023
Provider Update, July 2022

REFERENCES
Not applicable

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