OVERVIEW
This policy describes coverage of intraocular lenses (IOLs), including but not limited to accommodating and multifocal IOLs, that are implanted after cataract surgery and are designed to restore a fuller range of near, intermediate and far distance vision as compared to monofocal IOLs. This fuller range of vision generally reduces the need for additional eyeglasses or contact lenses after the surgery.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION
Prior authorization review is not required.

POLICY STATEMENT
BlueCHIP for Medicare and Commercial
Multifocal/accommodating intraocular lenses are not covered following cataract surgery as there are no medical advantages of multifocal/accommodating lenses over standard intraocular lenses.

However, members may request the insertion of Presbyopia Correcting Intraocular Lenses or Astigmatism-Correcting Intraocular Lenses instead of a standard, or monofocal, IOL following removal of a cataract and will be responsible for any additional cost of the P-C IOL including physician services required to monitor a patient receiving a presbyopia-correcting IOL. For example, eye examinations performed to determine the refractive state of the eyes following insertion of a presbyopia-correcting IOL.

MEDICAL CRITERIA
Not applicable.

BACKGROUND
Intraocular lens (IOL) implants are lenses used to replace the existing natural lens of the eye and are used to treat aphakia. Aphakia is the absence of the natural lens which may result from extraction of the lens (e.g., cataract surgery), penetrating trauma, or from congenital conditions. Procedures for which IOLs are commonly implanted include cataract surgery and clear lens extraction for the correction of refractive errors.

The current cataract procedure of choice is an extracapsular technique (removal of only the lens) with implantation of a posterior chamber (behind the iris) intraocular lens (IOL) within the capsular bag. Replacement of the lens restores optical focusing power lost by removal of the natural crystalline lens. The choice of IOL is dependent on physician recommendation and the visual needs of each individual patient.

Monofocal IOLs are considered the standard lens for replacement and usually require corrective lenses or eyeglasses after surgery for reading and near vision tasks. However, various types of intraocular lens implants are available and now include presbyopia correcting IOLs (i.e., multifocal and pseudoaccommodating). Presbyopia correcting IOLs are intended to reduce the need for eyeglasses or contact lenses that are commonly needed to provide near, intermediate and distant vision after a standard monofocal IOL is inserted.

Multifocal IOL: Multifocal IOLs are designed to provide distance and near vision simultaneously and offer multiple focal points within the IOL. They are considered an optional lens for patients in need of cataract surgery and may be classified as refractive or diffractive, depending on the technology of the lens. Diffractive lenses act similar to a bifocal; refractive lenses apply differing refractive powers to concentric portions of the
lens. In general, this multifocal lens structure focuses light rays from both distance and near. The lens does not restore good intermediate vision. Despite the improvement in near vision, adverse events associated with these lenses include increased glare and halos at night, variable loss of clarity, and loss of low-contrast acuity. Individuals should be counseled regarding potential adverse events and effects on overall quality of life. Various multifocal lenses have been approved by the FDA within the last few years and include, but are not limited to the following:

- Array® Model SA40 (Advanced Medical Optics [AMO], Santa Ana, CA) with multifocal rings/zones
- ReZoom™ (AMO) (a second generation lens to the Array) with Balanced View Optics™ technology distributing light over five optic zones
- AcrySof® ReStor® (Alcon Surgical, Fort Worth, TX) an apodized diffractive lens
- Tecnis ZM900 and ZMAOO (AMO, Santa Ana, CA), a multifocal aspheric IOL

**Presbyopia Correcting IOL and Astigmatism Correcting IOL**

More recently, presbyopia correcting lenses (i.e., multifocal, pseudoaccommodating) with or without additional features (e.g., toric, aspheric, ultraviolet protection), have been developed to improve visual acuity and may be referred to as premium IOLs. Multifocal IOLs offer both distant and near vision. The pseudoaccommodating IOLs, offers near, intermediate and distant vision. Overall, the intent of multifocal and pseudoaccommodating lenses is to provide distant to near vision capability when compared to the use of a monofocal IOL, and to reduce dependence on eyeglasses following cataract surgery.

**COVERAGE**

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for surgery benefits.

**CODING**

**BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial**

The following HCPCS code for a standard IOL is covered:

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<thead>
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<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>V2632</td>
<td>Presbyopia Correcting IOL and Astigmatism Correcting IOL</td>
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The following codes are not covered as they are considered a convenience item. However, if a member requests one of these lenses following cataract extractions, then payment is allowed up to the cost of standard intraocular monofocal lenses. The member is responsible for the difference in cost for lenses and any special services related to those lenses:

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<thead>
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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>V2787, V2788</td>
<td>Presbyopia Correcting IOL and Astigmatism Correcting IOL</td>
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**RELATED POLICIES**

Therapeutic Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses

**PUBLISHED**

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<td>May 2008</td>
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**REFERENCES**

1. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Intraocular Lenses (IOLs) (80.12)


