OVERVIEW
Ocriplasmin (Jetrea®) is a recombinant truncated form of human plasmin, a proteolytic enzyme that breaks down protein components at the vitreoretinal interface in the eye. Ocriplasmin is injected into the affected eye (intravitreal) as a single dose and can induce vitreous liquefaction and separation from the retina. Its proposed use is for the treatment of symptomatic vitreomacular adhesion (VMA).

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION
Prior authorization is not required.

POLICY STATEMENT
BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products
A single intravitreal injection of Ocriplasmin may be considered medically necessary for treatment of an eye with symptomatic vitreomacular adhesion (VMA).

The use of intravitreal Ocriplasmin is considered not medically necessary in all other situations, including use of repeat injections of Ocriplasmin.

MEDICAL CRITERIA
None

BACKGROUND
The vitreous is a gel-like fluid within the eye that adheres completely to the surface of the retina. The consistency of the vitreous and its adhesion to the retina are maintained by several proteins including collagen, laminin, and fibronectin. With aging, the proteins in the vitreous break down, resulting in liquefaction of the vitreous and eventual separation of the vitreous from the retina, a process called posterior vitreous detachment (PVD).

The process of vitreous detachment usually proceeds without incident, but sometimes the separation is not complete. The adhesion usually remains at sites where the bonds between the vitreous and retina are the strongest. Adhesion at the macula is called VMA. In some cases, VMA can cause visual symptoms. The traction caused by the adherent vitreous can cause deformation of the retina, edema, and macular holes. The retina may tear or detach. Symptoms can be variable, but can include diminished visual acuity, distorted vision (metamorphopsia) and central field defect.

Patients are usually observed until resolution or worsening, in which case vitrectomy is the only treatment. Although it is believed that only 10% of cases resolve spontaneously, observation is usually indicated because vitrectomy has risks and an almost certain occurrence of cataract in the years following vitrectomy. Ocriplasmin is a recombinant product that is a shortened form of the protease plasmin. Early studies of ocriplasmin were conducted in patients who were scheduled to have vitrectomy and established doses that showed some effect in inducing PVD and the temporal course of the effect. Studies by Benz et al, de Smet et al, and Stalmans et al led to the design and conduct of the pivotal clinical trials described in the Rationale section of this policy.
**COVERAGE**

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for limitations of benefits/coverage when the services are not medically necessary.

**CODING**

**BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products:**

The following CPT code is covered with one of the ICD10 codes listed in the code range below 67028:

ICD10-CM Range: H43.821-H43.829

**RELATED POLICIES**

None

**PUBLISHED**

Provider Update, August 2015

**REFERENCES:**


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