

Medical Coverage Policies

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Subconjunctival Retinal Prosthesis

EFFECTIVE DATE	02/17/2009	LAST UPDATED	04/06/2010
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Description

There is ongoing research interest in developing an artificial retina that could potentially restore sight to patients with blindness secondary to retinal diseases, such as retinitis pigmentosa, hereditary retinal degeneration, and some forms of age-related macular degeneration. As currently investigated, the artificial retina consists of a small external video camera, held on eyeglass frames, that captures images that are then processed by an externally worn microcomputer. These signals are transmitted to an electrode array implanted in the back of the eye, which in turn stimulates the optic nerve.

As of 2010, no device has received final U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval.

Medical Criteria:

Not applicable

Policy:

Use of subconjunctival retinal prosthesis has not received FDA approval and is therefore considered a contract exclusion.

Coverage:

Benefits may vary. Please refer to the appropriate Member Certificate/Subscriber Agreement/Rite Care Contract for applicable noncovered services.

Coding:

0100T

Also Known As:

NA

Published:

Provider Update, April 2009
Provider Update, June 2010

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