

Medical Coverage Policy | Extended Ophthalmoscopy and Fundus Photography



EFFECTIVE DATE: 02|09|2009
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 06|17|2014

OVERVIEW

Extended ophthalmoscopy is a detailed examination of the retina and includes a true drawing of the retina, with interpretation and report. Fundus photography involves the use of a retinal camera to document abnormalities of the retina and disease processes affecting the eye, in order to follow the progress of such disease.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization is not required.

POLICY STATEMENT

Blue CHiP for Medicare and Commercial

Extended ophthalmoscopy and fundus photography are medically necessary for the covered indications noted in this policy. All other indications are not medically necessary as there is insufficient evidence in published peer-reviewed medical literature to support the use of this treatment.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND

An ophthalmoscope is a handheld instrument with a magnifying lens and an illumination system that enables a doctor to examine the inside of a person's eye. Ophthalmoscopy is useful for viewing the vitreous humor, retina, optic nerve, retinal veins and arteries, and associated structures. A routine ophthalmoscopy is part of general and special ophthalmologic services whenever indicated, and is not reported separately.

Extended Ophthalmoscopy

An extended ophthalmoscopy is a meticulous evaluation of the eye with detailed documentation of a severe ophthalmologic problem when photography is not adequate or appropriate. Extended ophthalmoscopy is used for evaluation of tumors of the retina and choroid, retinal tears, detachments, hemorrhages, exudative detachments, and retinal defects without detachment, as well as other ocular defects. The physician is required to create detailed drawings that reveal the extent of the examination and findings, along with an interpretation and report.

Extended ophthalmoscopy is most frequently performed utilizing an indirect lens, although it may be performed using contact lens biomicroscopy. It may require scleral depression and is usually performed with the pupil dilated. It is performed by the physician when a more detailed examination (including that of the periphery) is needed, following routine ophthalmoscopy. Extended ophthalmoscopy is indicated when the level of examination requires a complete view of the posterior segment of the eye and documentation is greater than that required for general ophthalmoscopy.

Fundus Photography

Fundus photography (also called fundography) is the creation of a photograph of the interior surface of the eye, including the retina, optic disc, macula, and posterior pole (i.e. the fundus). Fundus photography is used by optometrists, ophthalmologists, and trained medical professionals for monitoring progression of a disease, diagnosis of a disease (combined with retinal angiography), or in screening programs and epidemiology.

Compared to ophthalmoscopy, fundus photography generally needs a considerably larger instrument, but has the advantage of availing the image to be examined by a specialist at another location and/or time, as well as providing photo documentation for future reference. Modern fundus photographs generally recreate considerably larger areas of the fundus than what can be seen at any one time with handheld ophthalmoscopes. Fundus photography is typically used as a method of documentation and also in determining the progression and treatment.

Fundus photography may be indicates to document abnormalities of disease process affecting the eye, or to follow the progress of such disease. Photographs and an interpretation and report may be necessary to document a disease process, to follow the progress of a disease, or to plan treatment for a disease process.

Extended ophthalmoscopy and fundus photography are medically necessary for the indications noted in the coding section. All other indications are not medically necessary as there is insufficient evidence in published peer-reviewed medical literature to support the use of this treatment.

COVERAGE

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

CODING

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial

The following CPT codes are covered when filed with the diagnosis codes listed below:

92225, 92226, 92250

The following ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes are covered for **extended ophthalmoscopy** when filed with the above CPT codes:



ICD 9 codes for
Extended Ophthamo:



ICD 10 codes for
Extended Ophthamo:

The following ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes are covered for **fundus photography** when filed with the above CPT codes:



ICD 9 codes for
Fundus Photography.



ICD 10 codes for
Fundus Photography.

RELATED POLICIES

Not applicable.

PUBLISHED

Provider Update	Sep 2014
Provider Update	Dec 2013
Provider Update	Aug 2012
Provider Update	Aug 2011
Provider Update	Sep 2010
Provider Update	Aug 2009
Policy Update	Jun 2008

REFERENCES

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4. National Guideline Clearinghouse. Age-related macular degeneration. Limited revision. www.guideline.gov. Accessed July 21, 2006.
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