Strabismus Surgery Indications

Adjudication Rule

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Abstract

For Members

Strabismus is a disorder in which the two eyes do not line up in the same direction, and therefore do not look at the same object at the same time. The condition is more commonly known as "crossed eyes" or squint. Most squints occur in young children. The first step in treating strabismus is to prescribe glasses, if needed. If the eyes still do not move correctly, eye muscle surgery may be needed. Different muscles in the eye will be made stronger or weaker. However treatment of strabismus for adults above 20 years of age is too late to resolve symptoms and hence is purely cosmetic.

Daman covers medically justifiable treatment for strabismus for all health insurance plans administered by Daman as per policy terms and conditions.

For Medical Professionals

Strabismus surgery (for congenital or acquired strabismus) is considered medically necessary if evidenced with justified indications and is covered for all health insurance plans administered by Daman, if medically indicated (as per policy terms and conditions).

Strabismus surgery for adults over the age of 20 may be too late to treat the associated amblyopia and depth perception impairment; therefore, the goal of treatment is sometimes purely cosmetic and will be covered only if evidenced with justified medical indications.
Strabismus Surgery Indications

Scope

This document highlights Daman’s coverage policy of strabismus surgery for all health insurance plans administered by Daman.

Strabismus refers to ocular misalignment as a result of impaired extra ocular muscle coordination. It is characterized by the inward, outward or vertical deviation of one or both eyes which makes it difficult to maintain binocularity.

Adjudication Policy

Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

Strabismus surgery (for congenital or acquired strabismus) is considered medically necessary if evidenced with justified indications (refer to indications below) and is covered for all health insurance plans administered by Daman, if medically indicated (subject to policy terms and conditions).

The indications for strabismus surgery for congenital and acquired strabismus include:

- Stereopsis
- To achieve simulation binocular perception
- Strabismic amblyopia
- Angular deviation more than 50
- Diplopia secondary to impaired extraocular muscle coordination
- Residual deviation after correction with glasses
- If there is failure, contraindication, or intolerance of available nonsurgical management

Strabismus surgery for adults over the age of 20 may be too late to treat the associated amblyopia and depth perception impairment; therefore, the goal of treatment is sometimes purely cosmetic. Hence the procedure will not be covered for adults over the age of 20 years unless evidenced with justified medical indications.

Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply HAAD payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT, etc.

Adjudication Examples

Example 1

**Question:** A 7 year old child holding Abu Dhabi plan diagnosed with congenital strabismus with diplopia and residual deviation after correction with glasses, has been advised to undergo strabismus surgery. Will the surgery be covered for this child?

**Answer:** The surgery will be covered for this child.

Example 2

**Question:** A 26 year old lady holding a Regional plan, diagnosed with strabismus has been advised for strabismus surgery. Will the surgery be covered for this patient?

**Answer:** The surgery will not be covered for this lady due to lack of medical justification.

Denial codes

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<th>Code Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>MNEC-004</td>
<td>Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice, without additional supporting diagnoses/activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCOV-002</td>
<td>Pre-existing conditions are not covered</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCOV-003</td>
<td>Service(s) is (are) not covered</td>
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<tr>
<td>MNEC-003</td>
<td>Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTH-001</td>
<td>Prior approval is required and was not obtained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTH-005</td>
<td>Claim information is inconsistent with pre-certified/authorized services</td>
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Non-Coverage

Strabismus surgery is not covered for Visitor’s plan.

For all other health insurance plans, strabismus surgery for congenital or acquired strabismus is covered, if evidenced with justified indications.
Appendices

A. References


2. General exclusion lists

3. Schedule of benefits

B. Revision History

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