

Strabismus Surgery

Adjudication Guideline

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1. Abstract

1.1 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.

1.2 For Medical Professionals

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

Daman considers repair of strabismus cosmetic when there is no expected improvement of fusion.

The approved indications for acquired strabismus in adults are:

- Documented diplopia or there is an impairment of peripheral vision due to esotropia.
- Restoration of alignment will restore ability to maintain fusion.

2. 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.

3. Adjudication Policy

3.1 Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

Strabismus surgery (for congenital or acquired strabismus) is considered medically necessary if evidenced with justified indications (refer to indications below):

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

- Stereopsis
- To achieve simulation binocular perception, i.e., if restoration of alignment will restore ability to maintain binocular fusion
- 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

3.2 Requirements for Coverage

ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity

3.3 Non-Coverage

Strabismus surgery is not covered for Visitor's plan.

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

Strabismus is not covered for cosmetic purposes when there is no expected improvement of fusion.

Strabismus surgery is not covered for strabismic amblyopia because as per current international guidelines stating that the optimal timing of strabismus surgery in individuals with strabismic amblyopia remains unknown.

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

3.4 Payment and Coding Rules

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

4. Denial Codes

Code	Code Description
MNEC-003	Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice
MNEC-004	Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinical practice, without additional supporting diagnoses/activities
MNEC-005	Service/supply may be appropriate, but too frequent
NCOV-001	Pre-existing conditions are not covered
NCOV-003	Service(s) is (are) not covered
CLAI-012	Submission not compliant with contractual agreement between provider & payer
CODE-012	Activity/diagnosis inconsistent with clinician speciality

Adjudication Examples

Example 1

Question: A 6-year-old child basic plan holder diagnosed with congenital strabismus. Patient cannot maintain binocular vision and has stereopsis. The requested authorisation was strabismus surgery. Will the request be approved?

Answer: Yes. The procedure will be covered

Example 2

Question: A 24-year-old female Thiqa member diagnosed with Duane's syndrome. The requested claim was strabismus surgery. Will the invoice be paid?

Answer: No. The procedure will not be covered since it is cosmetic.

5. Appendices

5.1 References

- http://eyewiki.aao.org/Strabismus_Surgery,_vertical
- <https://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/11>
- <https://www.aao.org/pediatric-center-detail/types-of-amblyopia>
- <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1215103-treatment#showall>
- <https://www.aao.org/preferred-practice-pattern/amblyopia-ppp-2017>
- http://eyewiki.aao.org/Strabismus_Surgery,_Horizontal
- <http://eyewiki.aao.org/Exotropia>
- <http://eyewiki.aao.org/Esotropia>
- <https://www.aao.org/clinical-statement/adult-strabismus-surgery>
- <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/strabismus-cause>
- http://eyewiki.aao.org/EyeWiki%3AKearns-Sayre_Ptosis

5.2 Revision History

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01/02/2011	V1.0
01/07/2013	V2.0
15/07/2014	V3.0 Disclaimer updated
15/02/2018	V4.0 Content updated
18/12/2024	V5.0 Content Revision and template change
30/04/2025	V5.1 Content Revision and template change

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