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Strabismus Surgery Indications

Adjudication Guideline

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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.

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). However, Daman considers repair of strabismus cosmetic when there is no expected improvement of fusion. The approved indications for acquired strabismus in adults are:

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

Approved by:
Daman

Responsible:
Medical Standards & Research

Related Adjudication Guidelines:

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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, i.e., if restoration of alignment will restore ability to maintain binocular fusion ;
- Angular deviation more than 50;
- Diplopia secondary to impaired extra-ocular muscle coordination;
- Residual deviation after correction with glasses;
- If there is failure, contraindication, or intolerance of available nonsurgical management.

Requirements for Coverage

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

Non-Coverage

- Strabismus surgery is not covered for Visitor's plan.
- 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 the American Academy of ophthalmology 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.

Payment and Coding Rules

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

Denial codes

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

Adjudication Examples

- Example 1

Question: A 6 years 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.

Appendices

A. References

1. http://eyewiki.aao.org/Strabismus_Surgery,_vertical
2. http://eyewiki.aao.org/Strabismus_Surgery,_Horizontal
3. <http://eyewiki.aao.org/Exotropia>
4. <http://eyewiki.aao.org/Esotropia#Surgery>
5. <https://www.aao.org/clinical-statement/adult-strabismus-surgery>
6. <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/strabismus-cause>
7. http://eyewiki.aao.org/EyeWiki%3AKearns-Sayre_Ptosis
8. <https://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/11>
9. <https://www.aao.org/pediatric-center-detail/types-of-amblyopia>
10. http://pediatric-ophth.com/media/Patient_Parent_Guide_to_Strabismus_Surgery.pdf
11. <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1215103-treatment#showall>
12. <https://www.aao.org/preferred-practice-pattern/amblyopia-ppp-2017>
13. https://www.google.ae/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjE_ZLnyKTYAhUKrRQKHd3aCY4QFggsMAE&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aao.org%2FAssets%2F95f5abab-3256-4499-bcbf-bf07b3c2f5dc%2F636313106183630000%2Fpediatric-book-rev2-pdf&usg=AOvVaw3L5mONjU9VKL7mugvPXHFi

B. Revision History

Date	Change(s)
01/02/2011	Release of V1.0
01/07/2013	New template V2.0
15/07/2014	V3.0 - Disclaimer updated as per system requirements
15/02/2018	V4.0 Content updated