Billing and Coding: Foundations for Beginners

Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

History and Purpose

Presented by Harvey Richman, O.D & Rebecca Wartman, O.D.

Dr. Harvey Richman is a graduate of the New England College of Optometry where his education emphasized the evaluation of children with behavioral and perceptual difficulties. After several years of pediatric practice and research, Dr. Harvey Richman achieved the credentials of Fellow of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development. This was immediately followed by earning the credentials of Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. In 2006, Dr. Richman was asked to join the American Optometric Associations Third Party Executive Committee to work on the Coding Committee due to his work for the state of New Jersey. Dr. Richman has lectured nationally on billing and coding, electronic health records, and PQRS. He has published work on Coding for Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation for the AOA and COVD.

Your presenter…

Harvey Richman, O.D.
Dr. Rebecca Wartman is a 1987 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Optometry and a 1979 graduate of The University of the South (BA Psychology). Dr. Wartman resides in North Carolina. She received the 2012 John D. Costabile Distinguished Service Award for her service to optometry. Dr. Wartman has served on the American Optometric Association’s Third Party Executive Center Committee since 2003. She serves as an Alternate Advisor for the AOA on CPT. She has lectured nationally on managed care and Third Party Coding. Dr. Wartman has published works on Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative and is a contributing author to Coding Abstract Column, Review of Optometry.

Topics to be covered:

- Special Ophthalmological Services
- 92XXX codes
- National Correct Coding Initiative Edits (NCCI)
- Modifiers
Special Ophthalmological Services

1. Describe services in which a special evaluation of part of the visual system is made, which goes beyond the services, or in which special treatment is given.

2. Special ophthalmological services may be reported in addition to the general ophthalmological services or evaluation and management services.

Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

92000 Series Codes

- Refraction
- Extended Ophthalmoscopy
- Fundus Photography
- Scanning Laser Technology
- Color Vision Examination
- Gonioscopy
- External Ocular Photography
- Sensorimotor Evaluation
- Visual Fields
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

Effect of Lenses

Without lenses

With lenses

Refraction-92015

• Determination of refractive state
• By CMS Statute a Non-Covered Service
  • Patient Responsibility
  • ABN Not Required but Useful
  • GY Modifier
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

Gonioscopy

92020
- Gonioscopic exam to diagnose injury or disease in the anterior chamber of the eye, performed under local anesthetic due to necessity of placing specialized lens directly on the eye to obtain a clear image
- Bilateral Procedure Code
- LCD Utilization

Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

Topography

92025
- Computerized corneal topography, unilateral or bilateral with interpretation and report
- Detection of subtle corneal surface irregularity and astigmatism
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

Sensorimotor Exam

92060

- Sensorimotor examination with multiple measurements of ocular deviation (e.g., restrictive or paretic muscle with diplopia) with interpretation and report (separate procedure)
- Lay Description
  - Sensorimotor examination (i.e. of the movement of the eye), conducted by taking measurements as the eyes focus on different locations or through one or more prisms. Searches for deviations in normal eye movements, which may result from injury or disease.

New Codes

92071

- Fitting of a contact lens for treatment of ocular surface disease
- Report materials in addition to this code, using either 99070 or the appropriate HCPCS Level II material code
- This is the appropriate code to use for fitting a bandage contact lens
- Unilateral Code
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

92072

• Fitting of a contact lens for management of keratoconus, initial fitting.
• For subsequent fittings, please use either the 9921X or 9201X codes.
• Report materials in addition to this code, using either 99070 or the appropriate HCPCS Level II material code.
• Bilateral Code

Image of keratoconus courtesy of Eyemagogines

Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

Visual Field Examinations

• 92081 Limited, unilateral or bilateral, with interpretation and report
• 92082 Intermediate, unilateral or bilateral, with interpretation and report
• 92083 Extended, unilateral or bilateral, with interpretation and report
Serial Tonometry

92100 (Separate Procedure)

With multiple measurements of intraocular pressure over an extended time period with interpretation and report, same day (eg, diurnal curve or medical treatment of acute elevation of intraocular pressure)

- Bilateral Code
- Modifier if appropriate

Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

Scanning Laser Tests

- Confocal laser scanning ophthalmoscopy (topography)
- Optical Coherence Tomography
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

92132

Scanning computerized ophthalmic diagnostic imaging, anterior segment, with interpretation and report, unilateral or bilateral

- Narrow angle, suspected narrow angle, and mixed narrow and open angle glaucoma
- Determining the proper intraocular lens for a patient who has had prior refractive surgery and now requires cataract extraction
- Iris tumor
- Presence of corneal edema or opacity that precludes visualization or study of the anterior chamber
- Calculation of lens power for cataract patients who have undergone prior refractive surgery. Payment will only be made for the cataract codes as long as additional documentation is available in the patient record of their prior refractive procedure. Payment will not be made in addition to A-scan or IOL master.
- Certain exceptions that must be determined on a case-by-case basis with the appropriate documentation.

92133

Glaucoma Indications

Scanning computerized ophthalmic diagnostic imaging, posterior segment, with interpretation and report, unilateral or bilateral; optic nerve

- Technological improvements have rendered SCODI as a valuable diagnostic tool in the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma. These improvements enable discernment of changes of the nerve fiber even in advanced cases of glaucoma.
- Utilization based on carrier. Many LCD expect that only two exams/eye/year would be required to manage the patient who has glaucoma or is suspected of having glaucoma.
Retinal disorders are the most common causes of severe and permanent vision loss. These technologies are valuable tools for the evaluation and treatment of patients with retinal disease, especially macular abnormalities.

These imaging techniques are useful tools to measure the effectiveness of therapy, and in determining the need for ongoing therapy, or the safety of cessation of therapy.

It is expected that only one exam/eye/2 months would be required to manage the patient whose primary ophthalmological condition is related to a retinal disease. However, for those patients who are undergoing active treatment for macular degeneration or diabetic retinopathy one exam/eye/month may be appropriate for the management of their disease.

The use of fluorescein angiography, indocyanine green angiography and SCODI to study the patient’s same eye per clinical encounter will NOT be authorized. However, SCODI and fluorescein angiography may be obtained on the patient’s same eye per clinical encounter if the medical record substantiates the need for both studies.

Extended Ophthalmoscopary

• 92225 - Ophthalmoscopy, extended, retinal drawing with interpretation & report; initial
• 92226 - ... Subsequent
• Documentation Requirements
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

92250

Fundus Photography

- Fundus photography with interpretation and report
- Bilateral Code

92283

Color Vision

- Color vision examination, extended, eg, anomaloscope or equivalent

(Color vision testing with pseudoisochromatic plates [such as HRR or Ishihara] is not reported separately. It is included in the appropriate general or ophthalmological service, or 99172)
**Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers**

92285

**Anterior Segment Photography**

- External ocular photography with interpretation and report for documentation of medical progress (eg, close-up photography, slit lamp photography, gonio-photography, stereo-photography)
- Bilateral Code

92286

**Endothelial Microscopy**

- Special anterior segment photography with interpretation and report; with specular endothelial microscopy and cell count
- Unilateral Code
### Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92310</td>
<td>Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of and fitting of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation; corneal lens, both eyes, except for aphakia:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Fitting of one eye, append -52 modifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Non Covered Service for Medicare</td>
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<tr>
<td>92311-92313</td>
<td>Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of and fitting of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation; corneal lens for aphakia, …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99311</td>
<td>one eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99312</td>
<td>two eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99313</td>
<td>corneoscleral lens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Image courtesy of Eyemagination
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

92314

Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of and fitting of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation and direction of fitting by independent technician; corneal lens, both eyes, except for aphakia:

- Fitting of one eye, append -52 modifier
- Non Covered Service for Medicare

HCPCS: V codes

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Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

92315-92317

Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of and fitting of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation and direction of fitting by independent technician; corneal lens for aphakia, .....

92315- one eye
92316- two eyes
92317- corneoscleral lens
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

92325
Contact Lens Evaluations

- Modification of contact lens (separate procedure), with medical supervision of adaptation
- Lay description - Modification of contact lens, typically by grinder or polisher, to provide a better fit

92326
Contact Lens Evaluations

- Replacement of contact lens under current prescription (due to damage, loss, etc.).
Modifiers

Used to:

- Indicate that service or procedure has been altered by some circumstance
- Do not change the definition of code
- Allow response to payment policy requirements established by payers or other entities
- Appended to HCPCS or CPT codes as appropriate
- Never use modifier just to bypass the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits

National Correct Coding Initiative Edits (NCCI)

Developed to:

- Promote national correct coding methodologies
- Control improper coding leading to inappropriate payment
- When you can and cannot use certain CPT/HCPCS codes together
- When you can and cannot use certain modifiers

Two different guides—now being combined into one guide

NCCI code pair edits are automated prepayment edits that prevent improper payment when certain codes are submitted together for Part B-covered services

NCCI Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs) defines maximum number of Units of Service allowable by a provider on a date of service for a single beneficiary

Must also read and understand the companion manual
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

Modifiers

Used to report service or procedure performed - altered but not changed in definition or code

- Service/procedure with professional & technical component
- Service/procedure performed by >1 physician &/or in >1 location
- Service/procedure increased or reduced
- Part of service performed
- Adjunctive service performed
- Bilateral procedure performed
- Service/procedure provided more than once
- Unusual events occurred

Modifiers

22: Increased procedural services - Not E&M
50: Bilateral procedures
51: Multiple procedures
52: Reduced services
53: Discontinued procedure-extenuating conditions
55: Postoperative management only
59: Distinct Procedural Services - Not E & M
Modifiers

- **76**: Repeat procedure by the same physician
- **77**: Repeat procedure by another physician
- **79**: Unrelated procedure during postop
- **25**: Significant, Separately Identifiable E&M service, same physician, same day of procedure/other service
- **24**: Unrelated E&M during post op
- **26**: Professional component

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Modifiers

- **RT**: Right eye
- **LT**: Left eye
- **E1**: Upper left lid
- **E2**: Lower left lid
- **E3**: Upper right lid
- **E4**: Lower right lid
- **TC**: Tech component
- **GW**: Hospice pt
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

Modifiers

ABN New Form for 2012

GA Modifier
- Expect denial as not reasonable and necessary
- Have ABN signed by the beneficiary

GZ Modifier
- Expect denial as not reasonable and necessary
- Do not have an ABN signed by the beneficiary

GY Modifier
- To indicate service is statutory excluded (refraction)
- Not required to file claim unless patient requests

Will discuss new ABN form in next lecture

Locum Tenens Modifiers

- Use when substitute doctor
- Less than 60 continuous days
  - Illness
  - Vacation
- Q5: Service furnished by a substitute physician under a reciprocal billing arrangement
- Applies when one solo physician alternates weekends or vacations with another solo practitioner nearby
- If you fill in for another optometrist during the weekend, you would not bill for the service. Instead, the other optometrist would submit a claim for the service with modifier -Q5 appended to tell the Medicare carrier that (s)he did not personally perform the service.
- Q6: Service furnished by a locum tenens physician (paid per diem)
**Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers**

**Modifier 25**

Significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management service by the same physician on the same day of the procedure or other service

- May be related to the same or different diagnosis as the other procedure(s)
- May be appended to E&M services reported with minor surgical procedures (global period of 000 or 010 days) or procedures not covered by global surgery rules (global indicator of XXX)
- Cannot report separate E&M service for the work associated with the decision to perform a minor surgical procedure whether the patient is a new or established patient

**Modifier 59**

Distinct Procedural Service used to indicate that a procedure or service was distinct or independent from other non-E/M services performed on the same day

- Often misused
- May be
  - Different session or patient encounter
  - Different procedure or surgery
  - Different site or organ system
  - Separate incision/excision, separate lesion or separate injury
- Not typically performed on same day by same physician
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

Modifier 59

- Does not require different diagnosis
- But different diagnosis NOT adequate reason to use
- Can use if procedures/surgeries are performed at different anatomic sites or separate patient encounters

NCCI definition of different anatomic sites includes different organs or different lesions in the same organ
BUT does not include treatment of contiguous structures of the same organ (e.g. peripheral retina and macula)
AND treatment of posterior segment structures in the ipsilateral eye constitutes treatment of a single anatomic site
Special Ophthalmologic Procedures and Modifiers

Summary

Special Ophthalmologics
- Can be used with 99xxx
- Can be used with 920xx
- Most require orders, interpretation and report

Modifiers
- Advise of differences
- CPT – Procedural
- HCPCS-Locational or Patient Specific

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RESOURCES

AOA Third Party Executive Center

WWW.AOACODINGTODAY.COM
  • Free AOA Member benefit
  • Online code look up and more

WWW.AOA.REIMBURSEMENTPLUS.COM
  • Available at discount to AOA members
  • Online cloud-based

http://www.aoa.org/x6167.xml

Codes for Optometry-AOA
  • Book with diagnoses code etc +CPT book

Askthecodingexperts@excelod.com

https://catalog.ama-assn.org/

Questions  Askthecodingexperts@excelod.com

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