



Payment Policy

Subject: Dry Eye Syndrome Testing

Programs Covered: OH Medicaid, KY Medicaid, OH Special Needs Program, OH MyCare, and OH Just4Me™

Policy

Effective February 1, 2014, CareSource will reimburse participating providers for dry eye syndrome testing as set forth in this policy.

Definitions

“Current Procedural Terminology” (“CPT”) codes are numbers assigned to every task, medical procedure, and service a medical practitioner may provide to a patient. CPT codes are developed, maintained and updated annually, and copyrighted by the American Medical Association. *(From ama-assn.org)*

“Dry Eye Syndrome,” also known as “keratoconjunctivitis sicca,” (KCS), “keratitis sicca,” “sicca syndrome,” “xerophthalmia,” or simply, “dry eyes,” is an eye disease in which tear film evaporation is high or tear production is low, or there is an imbalance in the composition of the patient’s tears, or eyelid problems, medications, or environmental factors cause a lack of adequate tears, leading the patient’s eyes to dry out and become inflamed. *(from www.mayoclinic.com)*

“Medically necessary” services are those health services that are necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and meet accepted standards of medical practice. *(from OAC 5160-10-02)*

Provider Reimbursement Guidelines

Coverage

Microfluidic analysis utilizing an integrated collection and analysis device to measure tear osmolarity (one eye) is a test covered by CareSource, and using the CPT code 83861. The American Academy of Ophthalmology Preferred Practice Pattern guideline for Dry Eye Syndrome specifically recommends tear osmolarity testing for the diagnosis and management of dry eye syndrome. The tear osmolarity test is considered to be a more sensitive method of diagnosing and grading the severity of dry eye compared to corneal and conjunctival staining, tear break-up time, Schirmer test and meibomian gland grading.

CareSource acknowledges that this test can only be performed at the point-of-care, as tear fluid is a fragile sample with insufficient volume to allow for collection and transfer to a reference laboratory for analysis, as stated in AMA’s CPT Assistant article on the associated CPT code (83861).

CareSource will reimburse all participating doctors' offices, including optometrists' offices, performing a medically necessary tear osmolarity test, provided that the doctor's office has been certified as a laboratory under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) regulations, and has a CLIA license.

Related Policies & References

State Exceptions

NONE

Document Revision History
