

Origination Date: 5/89	Revision Date(s): 12/99, 12/02, 12/03, 12/04, 11/05, 11/06, 11/07, 11/08, 7/10, 7/11
Developed By: Medical Criteria Committee	



Approved: **Robert Neal Mills, MD**

Date: 07/28/11

Description:

Eyelid surgery, known as blepharoplasty, is a surgical procedure performed on the upper and/or lower eyelid to remove excess fat, skin and muscle. Eyelid surgery may be performed for either functional/reconstructive purposes to improve the field of vision or for cosmetic purposes in the absence of visual field obstruction. Resection of the levator muscle of the upper eyelid is performed to repair blepharoptosis, or drooping of the upper eyelid. A brow lift is another surgical procedure that may be performed to correct a functional impairment of vision. A brow lift repairs brow ptosis by tightening the muscular structures supporting the eyebrow. When performed to primarily improve appearance, these procedures are considered cosmetic.

Criteria:

- I. ODS will cover upper or lower eyelid blepharoplasty to plan limitations when the patient has **one** of the following conditions:
 - A. Trichiasis (inversion of the eyelashes so that they rub against the cornea)
 - B. Ectropion (eyelid turned outward)
 - C. Entropion (eyelid turned inward)
 - D. Eyelid position contributes to difficulty in tolerating a prosthesis in an anophthalmic socket
 - E. The patient has undergone tumor ablative surgery of the eyelid

- II. In the absence of one of the conditions listed above, ODS will cover upper eyelid blepharoplasty, levator resection, or brow ptosis repair to plan limitations when **all** of the following criteria are met:
 - A. With eyelids untaped, the superior visual field is less than 20 degrees and there is at least a 20-degree improvement when taped; and
 - B. Documentation of patient complaint of subjective functional loss; and
 - C. Photographs must support the submitted documentation. With the patient looking straight ahead, the photo shows the eyelid at or below the upper edge of the pupil; and
 - D. Any related disease process, such as myasthenia gravis or a thyroid condition is documented as stable.

- III. ODS considers surgical correction of congenital ptosis medically necessary to allow proper visual development and prevent amblyopia in infants and children with moderate to severe ptosis interfering with vision. Surgery is considered cosmetic if performed to correct mild ptosis that is only of cosmetic concern and not effecting vision. Photographs must show that the skin or upper eyelid margin obstructs a portion of the pupil.

- IV. Blepharoplasty of the lower lids to remove excessive skin is considered cosmetic and is not covered. Blepharoplasty that is performed to primarily improve appearance is considered cosmetic and is not covered.

Information to be Submitted with Pre-Authorization Request:

1. Chart notes from the requesting provider
2. Visual fields (with lids taped and untaped)
 - Goldman III 4E Visual Field or equivalent

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- Humphreys Visual Field if done with a full field screen
3. Preoperative photographs-frontal at eye level and patient in primary position of gaze with pupil edge visible

CPT/HCPC Coding and Billing Information

These codes may not be all inclusive

Codes	Description
15820	Blepharoplasty, lower eyelid
15821	Blepharoplasty, lower eyelid; with extensive herniated fat pad
15822	Blepharoplasty, upper eyelid;
15823	Blepharoplasty, upper eyelid; with excessive skin weighting down lid
67900	Repair of brow ptosis (supraciliary, mid-forehead or coronal approach)
67901	Repair of blepharoptosis; frontalis muscle technique with suture or other material (eg, banked fascia)
67902	Repair of blepharoptosis; frontalis muscle technique with autologous fascial sling (includes obtaining fascia)
67903	Repair of blepharoptosis; (tarso) levator resection or advancement, internal approach
67904	Repair of blepharoptosis; (tarso) levator resection or advancement, external approach
67906	Repair of blepharoptosis; superior rectus technique with fascial sling (includes obtaining fascia)
67908	Repair of blepharoptosis; conjunctivo-tarso-Muller's muscle-levator resection (eg, Fasanella-Servat type)
67911	Correction of lid retraction
67914	Repair of ectropion; suture
67915	Repair of ectropion; thermocauterization
67916	Repair of ectropion; excision tarsal wedge
67917	Repair of ectropion; extensive (eg, tarsal strip operations)
67921	Repair of entropion; suture
67922	Repair of entropion; thermocauterization
67923	Repair of entropion; excision tarsal wedge
67924	Repair of entropion; extensive (eg, tarsal strip or capsulopalbral fascia repairs operation)

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