



Clinical Medical Policy Phototherapeutic Keratectomy

Benefit Coverage:

Phototherapeutic keratectomy (PTK) is a conditional benefit, requiring prior authorization and medical review. It may be performed in the office setting using topical anesthesia. PTK is not the same as photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) which is used to correct refractive errors of the eye (i.e. myopia, astigmatism, hyperopia, and presbyopia.) PRK is not a covered benefit.

Description:

Phototherapeutic keratectomy (PTK) involves the use of the excimer laser to treat visual impairment or irritative symptoms relating to disease of the anterior cornea, by sequentially ablating uniformly thin layers of corneal tissues. PTK functions by removing anterior stromal opacities or eliminating elevated corneal lesions while maintaining a smooth corneal surface.

Coverage Determination:

PTK may be considered medically necessary for treatment of specific conditions. The criteria below identify those conditions in which PTK may be covered by Neighborhood, when documentation submitted supports the request for PTK.

PTK is considered not medically necessary when used as an alternative to superficial mechanical keratectomy in treating patients with superficial corneal dystrophy, epimembranous dystrophy, and irregular corneal surfaces due to Salzmann's nodular degeneration or keratoconus nodules.

Additionally, PTK is considered investigational when used to treat recurrent corneal erosions, and infectious keratitis, and any condition not listed below under "Criteria."

Criteria:

Any of the following conditions may be considered medically necessary for treatment with PTK:

- 1) Corneal scars and opacities
- 2) Anterior corneal dystrophy
- 3) Recurrent erosions when mechanical surgical treatments such as corneal micropuncture or epithelial curettage have failed.

Exclusions:

Experimental or investigational use of PTK.

CMP Number: CMP-041.00

CMP Cross Reference:

References:

- 1) Amano S., Oshika T., Pazawa Y., Long Term Follow Up of Excimer Laser Photokeratectomy. Japanese Journal of Ophthalmology 1999, Nov.-Dec.; 43
- 2) Baker Hall Fagerholm P., Phototherapeutic Keratectomy: 12 years of Experience. UCTA Ophthalmologica Scandinavica 2003; 81:19-31.



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3) Stuart Go, Parajasermarem P., Cazabon J. and Morrel A.J., Visual and Symptomatic Outcome of Phototherapeutic Keratectomy (PTK) for Corneal Dystrophies. Eye 2002; 16:126-131.

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