BLEPHAROPLASTY, BLEPHAROPTOSIS REPAIR
SUR716.004

COVERAGE:

**Blepharoplasty may be covered** with documentation of the following:

- blepharospasm,
- blepharochalasis, and
- dermatochalasis.

With documentation, repair of **blepharoptosis, may be covered for** ptosis of the eyelid.

**Coverage will not be provided** for blepharoplasty or blepharoptosis repair for purely cosmetic reasons (eg. blepharoplasty of the lower lid for skin excess) is not covered as it is seldom done for functional reasons). Correction of baggy eyelids and excision of orbital fat pad due to aging is **non covered** as the surgeon is not treating a disease or injury. The surgeon may certify that the condition is causing visual impairment. This may be valid in exceptional cases, but in the majority of cases, it is not. The alleged visual impairment usually defies documentation with appropriate vision tests (ie. visual fields). Refer to specific contact language.

For predetermination of benefits or reconsideration of claims, the following documentation **must** be provided and **must** consist of:

- history and physical,
- operative report,
- Visual field examination by an ophthalmologist should be recorded using a Goldman Perimeter or programmable automated perimeter such as the Humphrey machine. Each eye should be recorded at rest only. The superior field should be tested to 30 degrees above fixation at a minimum of 4 degrees vertical separation not more than 5 degrees horizontal separation and must demonstrate an absolute superior defect to within 15 degrees of fixation.
- photographs (prints, no slides), must be frontal, canthus to canthus with the head perpendicular to the plane of the camera (not tilted) to demonstrate the true lid margin or the pseudo lid margin. Down gaze photos must be included if the only pathology is in down gaze.

DESCRIPTION:

**Definitions** include:

**Blepharoplasty** refers to any plastic surgery of the eyelids.

**Blepharoptosis (Ptosis)** is drooping of an upper eyelid.

**Blepharochalasis** is characterized by loss of skin elasticity and drooping of the lids due to atrophy of the intercellular tissue. Vision may be impaired.
**Dermatochalasis** is a condition in which the skin becomes detached from the orbicularis oculi and hangs over the ciliary margin.

**Brow ptosis** is falling of the eyebrow causing drooping of the upper eyelid. This condition may necessitate an eyebrow lift as well as a blepharoplasty.

**Entropion** is the turning inward (inversion) of the edge or margin of the eyelid toward the eyeball.

**Ectropion** is the turning outward (eversion) of the edge or margin of the eyelid, resulting in exposure of the conjunctiva.

Several conditions may indicate the advisability of eyelid surgery for functional as well as cosmetic reasons. These include:

- ptosis,
- orbital floor fractures,
- socket reconstruction,
- inferior orbital tumor excision,
- orbital decompression,
- floppy eyelid syndrome,
- blepharochalasis,
- dermatochalasis,
- herniated orbital fat,
- superior or temporal hooding, and
- ectropion.

Heredity is the most common etiological factor which predisposes an individual to conditions which warrant eyelid surgery. Other conditions that can also contribute to a problem include thyroid disease, chronic allergy and kidney disease. Excessive alcoholism, female hormone cycles and chronic sinusitis may also contribute.

**RATIONALE:**

None

**DISCLAIMER:**

State and federal law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific inclusions/exclusions, takes precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining coverage. The member’s contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Any benefits are subject to the payment of premiums for the date on which services are rendered. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically.

HMO Blue Texas physicians who are contracted/affiliated with a capitated IPA/medical group must contact the IPA/medical group for information regarding HMO claims/reimbursement information and other general polices and procedures.

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Posted Jan. 7, 2003