

March Vision Care

Closure of Lacrimal Duct by Plug

Subject: Closure of Lacrimal Duct by Plug

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Overview

Punctual occlusion is defined as closure of the lacrimal punctum; by plug, each. Referring to each plug that is placed in a punctum, the opening in the lacrimal canaliculi. There are 4 puncta, located on the upper and lower eyelid margins near the nose, on both eyes.

Clinical Criteria

March Vision has determined the use of lacrimal punctum plugs is medically necessary in the following instances:

- Dry eye syndrome not adequately responding to conservative treatment with:
 - artificial tears
 - warm compresses
 - ophthalmic cyclosporine
 - oral Omega-3 supplements
- Dry eye symptoms that include:
 - Dryness
 - Redness
 - Burning /discomfort/foreign body sensation
- Dry eye symptoms may be contributed to or exacerbated by:
 - Systemic medications
 - General health issues (e.g., Sjogren's Syndrome, Rheumatoid Arthritis);
 - Environmental issues (e.g., cold weather, decreased humidity)
 - Hormonal/endocrine fluctuations
- One temporary plug (collagen) per punctum will be reimbursed, if placed prior to permanent plug (silicone) to determine efficacy of punctal occlusion.

After placement of collagen plugs, enrollee must report significant improvement in symptoms or show quantitative improvement of clinical findings on follow up exam in order to proceed with permanent plug (silicone) placement.

CPT Coding

The following list of codes are for informational purposes only and may not be all-inclusive. Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.

<u>68761</u>	<u>Closure of lacrimal duct with plug</u>
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Quantity Limits

This procedure has a global period of ten (10) calendar days.