

Clinical Policy: Destruction of Extensive or Progressive Retinopathy

Reference Number: CP.VP.19

Last Review Date: 08/2025

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

This policy describes the medical necessity requirements for destruction of extensive or progressive retinopathy using panretinal laser photocoagulation (laser or xenon arc).

Policy/Criteria

- I. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® (Centene) and Envolve Vision, Inc.® (Envolve) that destruction of extensive or progressive retinopathy using panretinal laser photocoagulation (PRP) is **medically necessary** for the following indications:
 - A. The treatment or management of patients with proliferative or pre-proliferative diabetic retinopathy;
 - B. The treatment or management of patients with severe levels of diabetic macular edema associated with pre-proliferative retinopathy, and other proliferative retinopathies.

Background

Diabetic retinopathy is a condition occurring in persons with diabetes, which causes progressive damage to the retina. It is a serious sight-threatening complication of diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy is the result of damage to the tiny blood vessels that nourish the retina. They leak blood and other fluids that cause swelling of retinal tissue and clouding of vision. The condition usually affects both eyes. The longer a person has diabetes, the more likely they will develop diabetic retinopathy. If left untreated, diabetic retinopathy can cause blindness.

As diabetic retinopathy progresses, gradual closure of retinal vessels results in impaired perfusion and retinal ischemia. Signs of increasing ischemia include venous abnormalities (e.g., dilation, beading, loops), intraretinal microvascular abnormalities (IRMA), and more severe and extensive vascular leakage characterized by increasing retinal hemorrhages and exudation. Once the disease reaches the classification of severe non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy (NPDR), patients should be considered candidates for treatment with PRP or anti-vascular endothelial growth factor agents (see policy *CP.VP.40 Photodynamic and Intravitreal Therapies and Pharmaceuticals*). The more advanced stage, proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR), is characterized by the onset of neovascularization at the inner surface of the retina and into the vitreous induced by more global retinal ischemia. New vessels on or near the optic disc (neovascularization of the disc [NVD]) and new vessels elsewhere (NVE) in the retina are prone to bleed, resulting in vitreous hemorrhage. These new vessels may undergo fibrosis and contraction; this and other fibrous proliferation may result in epiretinal membrane formation, vitreoretinal traction, retinal tears, and retinal detachments. When new vessels are accompanied by vitreous hemorrhage, or when NVD occupy greater than or equal to about one-quarter to one-third disc area, even in the absence of vitreous hemorrhage, PDR is considered high-risk. Neovascular glaucoma can result from new vessels growing on the iris and anterior chamber angle structures. Patients with neovascular glaucoma or high-risk PDR should receive prompt treatment with anti-VEGF agents and PRP.

Diabetic Retinopathy Disease Severity Scale - Disease Severity Level Findings and clinically observable findings upon dilated ophthalmoscopy:

- No apparent retinopathy
 - No abnormalities
- Mild NPDR
 - Microaneurysms only
- Moderate NPDR
 - More than just microaneurysms but less than severe NPDR
- Severe NPDR
 - U.S. definition: Any of the following (4-2-1 rule) and no signs of proliferative retinopathy:
 - Severe intraretinal hemorrhages and microaneurysms in each of 4 quadrants
 - Definite venous beading in 2 or more quadrants
 - Moderate IRMA in 1 or more quadrants
 - International definition: Any of the following and no signs of proliferative retinopathy:
 - More than 20 intraretinal hemorrhages in each of 4 quadrants
 - Definite venous beading in 2 or more quadrants
 - Prominent IRMA in 1 or more quadrants
- PDR: One or both of the following:
 - Neovascularization
 - Vitreous/preretinal hemorrhage

The xenon-arc lamp, which became available commercially in 1958, produces an emission spectrum similar to that of sunlight, emitting all wavelengths between 400 and 1600 nm. Hence, it produces a full-thickness burn without selective tissue targeting. The xenon-arc lamp burns steadily, and no adjustments are necessary during treatment. These were advances over earlier sources. Over the years, xenon has proved to be an extremely useful light source and has promoted the clinical application of light coagulation as an accepted therapeutic tool. However, it has been superseded by the argon blue-green laser, argon green laser, krypton red laser, dye lasers and, more recently, the diode laser.

PRP involves extensive treatment with an argon or diode laser to the peripheral and middle portions of the retina. Photocoagulation is designed to burn and seal unwanted blood vessels, thus preventing hemorrhage. PRP targets the ablation of ischemic retina, which in turn reduces the production of various cytokines, such as vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), thereby causing regression of neovascularization. PRP may also be used to ablate small areas of neovascularization on the retina. The initial treatment usually consists of approximately 1500- 2000 spots of laser per eye. This is accomplished in two or more sessions. Treatment may require the use of general anesthesia (in uncooperative patients) or retrobulbar/peribulbar block. While PRP greatly reduces the risk of visual loss in all states of proliferative retinopathy, treatment is withheld until the risk of visual loss outweighs the risks and side effects of the treatment.

Side Effects and Complications of Treatment with PRP:

- Transient central vision loss from macular edema
- Peripheral visual field constriction with delayed dark adaptation
- Vitreous hemorrhage if neovascularization is present

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- Reduced or compromised accommodation
- Pupillary dilation (mydriasis)
- Acceleration of cataract development

Coding Implications

This clinical policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2025, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

CPT® Codes	Description
67228	Treatment of extensive or progressive retinopathy (e.g., diabetic retinopathy), photocoagulation

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes that Support Coverage Criteria

+ Indicates a code requiring an additional character

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
E08.3211	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E08.3212	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E08.3213	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E08.3311	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E08.3312	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E08.3313	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E08.3391	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E08.3392	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E08.3393	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E08.3411	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E08.3412	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye

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ICD-10-CM Code	Description
E08.3413	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E08.3491	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E08.3492	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E08.3492	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E08.3511	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E08.3512	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E08.3513	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E08.3521	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, right eye
E08.3522	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, left eye
E08.3523	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, bilateral
E08.3531	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, right eye
E08.3532	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, left eye
E08.3533	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, bilateral
E08.3541	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, right eye
E08.3542	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, left eye
E08.3543	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, bilateral
E08.3551	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, right eye
E08.3552	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, left eye
E08.3553	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, bilateral
E08.3591	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye

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ICD-10-CM Code	Description
E08.3592	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E08.3593	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E09.3211	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E09.3212	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E09.3213	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E09.3311	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E09.3312	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E09.3313	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E09.3391	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E09.3392	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E09.3393	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E09.3411	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E09.3412	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E09.3413	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E09.3491	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E09.3492	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E09.3493	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E09.3511	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E09.3512	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E09.3513	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E09.3521	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, right eye

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ICD-10-CM Code	Description
E09.3522	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, left eye
E09.3523	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, bilateral
E09.3531	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, right eye
E09.3532	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, left eye
E09.3533	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, bilateral
E09.3541	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, right eye
E09.3542	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, left eye
E09.3543	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, bilateral
E09.3551	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, right eye
E09.3552	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, left eye
E09.3553	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, bilateral
E09.3591	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E09.3592	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E09.3593	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E10.3211	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E10.3212	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E10.3213	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E10.3311	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E10.3312	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E10.3313	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral

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ICD-10-CM Code	Description
E10.3391	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E10.3392	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E10.3393	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E10.3411	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E10.3412	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E10.3413	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E10.3491	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E10.3492	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E10.3493	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E10.3511	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E10.3512	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E10.3513	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E10.3521	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, right eye
E10.3522	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, left eye
E10.3523	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, bilateral
E10.3531	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, right eye
E10.3532	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, left eye
E10.3533	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, bilateral
E10.3541	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, right eye
E10.3542	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, left eye
E10.3543	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, bilateral
E10.3551	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, right eye

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ICD-10-CM Code	Description
E10.3552	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, left eye
E10.3553	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, bilateral
E10.3591	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E10.3592	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E10.3593	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E11.3211	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E11.3212	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E11.3213	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E11.3311	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E11.3312	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E11.3313	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E11.3391	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E11.3392	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E11.3393	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E11.3411	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E11.3412	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye
E11.3413	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E11.3491	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E11.3492	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E11.3493	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
E11.3511	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye
E11.3512	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye

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ICD-10-CM Code	Description
E11.3513	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral
E11.3521	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, right eye
E11.3522	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, left eye
E11.3523	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, bilateral
E11.3531	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, right eye
E11.3532	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, left eye
E11.3533	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, bilateral
E11.3541	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, right eye
E11.3542	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, left eye
E11.3543	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, bilateral
E11.3551	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, right eye
E11.3552	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, left eye
E11.3553	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, bilateral
E11.3591	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye
E11.3592	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye
E11.3593	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral
H30.21	Posterior cyclitis, right eye
H30.22	Posterior cyclitis, left eye
H30.23	Posterior cyclitis, bilateral
H34.11	Central retinal artery occlusion, right eye
H34.12	Central retinal artery occlusion, left eye
H34.13	Central retinal artery occlusion, bilateral
H34.231	Retinal artery branch occlusion, right eye
H34.232	Retinal artery branch occlusion, left eye
H34.233	Retinal artery branch occlusion, bilateral
H34.8110	Central retinal vein occlusion, right eye, with macular edema
H34.8111	Central retinal vein occlusion, right eye, with retinal neovascularization
H34.8112	Central retinal vein occlusion, right eye, stable

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ICD-10-CM Code	Description
H34.8120	Central retinal vein occlusion, left eye, with macular edema
H34.8121	Central retinal vein occlusion, left eye, with retinal neovascularization
H34.8122	Central retinal vein occlusion, left eye, stable
H34.8130	Central retinal vein occlusion, bilateral, with macular edema
H34.8131	Central retinal vein occlusion, bilateral, with retinal neovascularization
H34.8132	Central retinal vein occlusion, bilateral, stable
H34.8310	Tributary (branch) retinal vein occlusion, right eye, with macular edema
H34.8311	Tributary (branch) retinal vein occlusion, right eye, with neovascularization
H34.8320	Tributary (branch) retinal vein occlusion, left eye, with macular edema
H34.8321	Tributary (branch) retinal vein occlusion, left eye, with neovascularization
H34.8330	Tributary (branch) retinal vein occlusion, bilateral, with macular edema
H34.8331	Tributary (branch) retinal vein occlusion, bilateral, with neovascularization
H35.021	Exudative retinopathy, right eye
H35.022	Exudative retinopathy, left eye
H35.023	Exudative retinopathy, bilateral
H35.051	Retinal neovascularization, unspecified, right eye
H35.052	Retinal neovascularization, unspecified, left eye
H35.053	Retinal neovascularization, unspecified, bilateral
H35.061	Retinal vasculitis, right eye
H35.062	Retinal vasculitis, left eye
H35.063	Retinal vasculitis, bilateral
H35.111	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 0, right eye
H35.112	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 0, left eye
H35.113	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 0, bilateral
H35.121	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 1, right eye
H35.122	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 1, left eye
H35.123	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 1, bilateral
H35.131	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 2, right eye
H35.132	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 2, left eye
H35.133	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 2, bilateral
H35.141	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 3, right eye
H35.142	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 3, left eye
H35.143	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 3, bilateral
H35.151	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 4, right eye
H35.152	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 4, left eye
H35.153	Retinopathy of prematurity, stage 4, bilateral
H35.21	Other non-diabetic proliferative retinopathy, right eye
H35.22	Other non-diabetic proliferative retinopathy, left eye

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ICD-10-CM Code	Description
H35.23	Other non-diabetic proliferative retinopathy, bilateral
H35.82	Retinal ischemia
H36.811	Nonproliferative sickle-cell retinopathy, right eye
H36.812	Nonproliferative sickle-cell retinopathy, left eye
H36.813	Nonproliferative sickle-cell retinopathy, bilateral
H36.821	Proliferative sickle-cell retinopathy, right eye
H36.822	Proliferative sickle-cell retinopathy, left eye
H36.823	Proliferative sickle-cell retinopathy, bilateral
H43.11	Vitreous hemorrhage, right eye
H43.12	Vitreous hemorrhage, left eye
H43.13	Vitreous hemorrhage, bilateral

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
Annual Review	12/2019	12/2019
Convert to new template	04/2020	06/2020
Annual Review; Updated references	12/2020	12/2020
Annual Review	12/2021	01/2022
Annual Review	11/2022	12/2022
Updated medically indicated diagnoses to include new ICD-10 codes for sickle-cell retinopathy.	11/2023	12/2023
Annual Review	11/2024	12/2024
Updated Background and References	06/2025	07/2025
Annual Review	08/2025	10/2025

References

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2. American Academy of Ophthalmology, Preferred Practice Pattern® Guidelines, Diabetic Retinopathy Preferred Practice Pattern, San Francisco, CA, American Academy of Ophthalmology, 2024, <https://www.aao.org/preferred-practice-pattern/diabetic-retinopathy-ppp>
3. Takamura Y, Arimura S, Miyake S, et al. Panretinal Photocoagulation Using Short-Pulse Laser Induces Less Inflammation and Macular Thickening in Patients with Diabetic Retinopathy. J Ophthalmol. 2017;2017:8530261.
4. Suzuki, Y., Adachi, K., Maeda, N. et al. Proliferative diabetic retinopathy without preoperative pan-retinal photocoagulation is associated with higher levels of intravitreal IL-6 and postoperative inflammation. Int J Retin Vitro 6, 24 (2020).

Important Reminder

CLINICAL POLICY

Destruction of Extensive or Progressive Retinopathy



This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

This clinical policy is the property of the Health Plan. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this clinical policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note: For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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Note: For Medicare members, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs, and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at <https://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

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