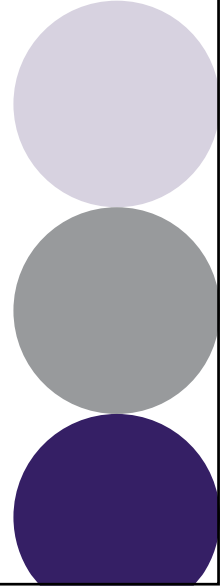


Cataract Documentation Checklist

Target, Probe and Educate (TPE) Audits

Ravi D. Goel, MD
Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice

October 2021



Reality

- Third-party payer audits have returned.
- If a payer has a policy on the documentation requirements for the exam to determine the need for surgery, it is published on their website.
- For convenience, Academy staff has linked Medicare's local coverage determinations and articles to aao.org/lcnds.
 - Not password protected.
 - Your staff has access.
 - Visit the site often as policies are updated frequently.



TPE Palmetto

- Extracapsular Cataract Removal with Insertion of IOL for April through June 2021
 - Outcome: Denial rate of 25.67%

82.26%	Payer Deems the Information Submitted Does Not Support the Medical Necessity of the Services Billed
7.53%	Documentation Requested for this Date of Service Was Not Received or Was Incomplete
5.38%	Documentation Lacks the Necessary Provider Signature
2.69%	Claim Billed in Error Per Provider
1.08%	Auto Deny — Requested Records Not Submitted Timely



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Documentation Checklist: Exam to Determine the Need for Surgery

- ✓ Patient's unique chief complaint of impairment of visual function that includes how ADL is impacted
- ✓ Visual acuity and
- ✓ Best corrected visual acuity documented
- ✓ If complaint is near vision, document BCVA at near too
- ✓ If patient complains of glare, appropriate to perform a glare test
- ✓ Confirmation that a change in glasses or contact lenses or lighting will not improve visual function



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Documentation Checklist: Exam to Determine the Need for Surgery

- ✓ Surgeon's examination confirms diagnosis of cataract
- ✓ The degree of lens opacity should correlate with the impairment of corrected visual acuity



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Documentation Checklist: Exam to Determine the Need for Surgery

- ✓ Removal of the natural lens will improve patient's visual function, or any of these indications:
 - ✓ Concomitant intraocular disease, such as diabetic retinopathy or intraocular tumor.
 - ✓ Lens-induced disease threatening vision or ocular health such as phacomorphic or phacolytic glaucoma.
 - ✓ High probability of accelerating cataract development as a result of a concomitant or subsequent procedure such as pars plana vitrectomy, iridocyclectomy, procedure for ocular trauma.
 - ✓ Cataract is interfering with vitreoretinal surgery.
 - ✓ Intolerable anisometropia or aniseikonia uncorrectable with glasses or contact lenses exists as a result of lens extraction in the first eye.



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Documentation Checklist: Exam to Determine the Need for Surgery

- ✓ Risks and benefits have been discussed by the surgeon with reasonable expectation that both the patient's visual and functional status will improve.
- ✓ If vision is specifically not expected to improve, the statement must include the patient's understanding of that fact.
- ✓ A statement that the patient desires to proceed with surgery.
- ✓ An identifiable physician signature.
 - ✓ Signature log
 - ✓ EHR signature protocol



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Testing

- Documentation for the A-scan/ultrasound must include a delegated order:
 - ✓ Which test
 - ✓ Which eye(s)
 - ✓ Surgeon's interpretation/report
 - ✓ Selected lens power
 - ✓ If performed by a physician, document personally performed so that auditor will not look for a delegating order.



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TPE Process

- Typically, pre-payment
- Once request received, 45-days to respond
- Include all documents requested
- Three rounds of review
- Each round examines 20 to 40 claims
- After each round a letter with results will be mailed and may require a one-to-one review. If you fail the first round, you will face a second review. If a physician fails all three rounds, further action will be taken.



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Begin Internal Review Today! Now!



Identify areas of vulnerability.



Take immediate corrective action.

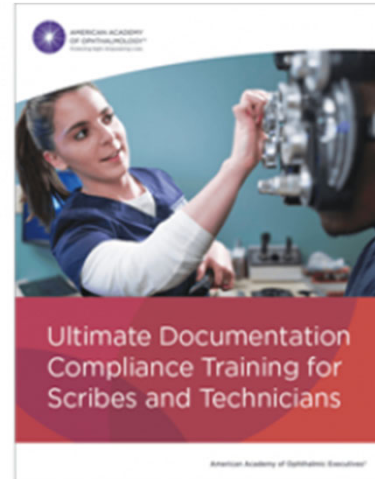


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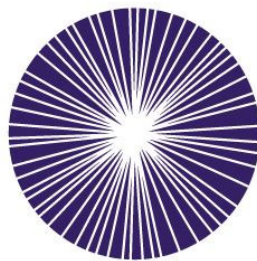
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Coding is a Team Sport

- Websites
 - aao.org/coding
 - aao.org/lcds
 - aao.org/em
- Products aao.org/store
 - Coding Assistant: Cataract/Anterior Segment
- Coding Courses
 - Codequest aao.org/codequest
 - Annual meeting live and virtual



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