American Academy of Ophthalmic Executives®

Checklist: Photodynamic Therapy Laser
(CPT codes 67221, +67225, J3396)

Reviewed September 2021

All the following must be present before therapy begins:

☐ Choroidal neovascularization membrane (CNVM) secondary to age-related macular degeneration
☐ CNVM under the geometric center of the foveal avascular zone
☐ Evidence of classic CNVM on fluorescein angiogram (FA)
☐ Area of classic CNVM at least 50% of the area of the total neovascular membrane
☐ Retreatment with PDT is reasonable and necessary if, on re-examination, the ophthalmologist finds leakage from classic CNV on the FA
☐ Effective for claims with dates of service on and after April 3, 2013 permit either optical coherence tomography (OCT) or FA to assess treatment response.

Effective April 1 2003, PDT may be covered for:

☐ Subfoveal occult with no classic CNV associated with AMD
☐ Subfoveal minimally classic CNV (where the area of classic CNV occupies < 50% of the area of the entire lesion) associated with AMD

These two indications are considered reasonable and necessary only when:

☐ The lesions are small (4 disk areas or less in size) at the time of initial treatment or within 3 months prior to initial treatment; and,
☐ They have shown evidence of progression with the 3 months prior to initial treatment

Non-covered indications

☐ Juxtafoveal or extrafoveal CNV lesions (lesions outside the fovea),
☐ Inability to obtain a FA
☐ Atrophic or “dry” AMD

Procedure note should include

☐ Diagnosis supporting medical necessity and appropriate indication for use
☐ Relevant diagnostic testing services within the policy guidelines (FA, OCT)
☐ Physician order including, medication name and dosage and signature
☐ Route of administration, site of injection
☐ Dosage in mg and volume in ml
☐ Medication wastage recorded
☐ Consent completed
☐ Physician signature is legible
  - Paper chart records have a signature log
  - Electronic health records (EHR), the electronic physician signature is secure

References:
CMS National Coverage Determination, Ocular Photodynamic Therapy (80.2.1);
CMS National Coverage Determination, Verteporfin (80.3.1)
CMS National Coverage Determination, Photodynamic Therapy (80.2)
Academy’s Retina Coding: Complete Reference Guide