

Digital Imaging Systems for the Detection and Evaluation of Diabetic Retinopathy and Intraocular Photography

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Application:	
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Disclaimer

Highmark Health Options medical policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

POLICY STATEMENT

A United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) approved digital imaging system is used to acquire a series of standard field color images and/or monochromatic images of the retina of each eye in the physician's office. These photos are then transmitted to a remote center for interpretation and recommendations for treatment by an ophthalmologist.

DEFINITIONS

Highmark Health Options (HHO) – Managed care organization serving vulnerable populations that have complex needs and qualify for Medicaid. Highmark Health Options members include individuals and families with low income, expecting mothers, children, and people with disabilities. Members pay nothing to very little for their health coverage. Highmark Health Options currently serves Delaware Medicaid: Delaware Healthy Children Program (DHCP) and Diamond State Health Plan and Health Plan Plus members.

POLICY POSITION

Retinal tele-screening by digital imaging for the detection and evaluation of diabetic retinopathy in individuals with diabetes mellitus may be considered medically necessary.

Retinal tele-screening not meeting the criteria as indicated in this policy, including the monitoring and management of disease in individuals diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy is considered not medically necessary.

Intraocular photography may be considered medically necessary when used for the diagnosis of the following (not an all-inclusive list):

- Macular degeneration; or
- Retinal neoplasms; or
- Choroid disturbances; or

- Diabetic retinopathy; or
- To identify Glaucoma; or
- To identify Multiple sclerosis; or
- To identify other central nervous system abnormalities.

Intraocular photography not meeting the criteria as indicated in this policy is considered not medically necessary.

PROFESSIONAL STATEMENTS AND SOCIETAL POSITIONS GUIDELINES

American Diabetes Association – 2020

In 2020, the American Diabetes Association updated its guidelines on standards of medical care for diabetes. Included in the guidelines were specific recommendations for initial and subsequent screening examinations for retinopathy:

- "Adults with type 1 diabetes should have an initial eye examination by an ophthalmologist or optometrist within 5 years after the onset of diabetes. (B)"
- "Patients with type 2 diabetes should have an initial dilated and comprehensive eye examination by an ophthalmologist or optometrist at the time of the diabetes diagnosis. (B)"
- "Eye examinations should occur before pregnancy or in the first trimester in patients with preexisting type 1 or type 2 diabetes, and then these patients should be monitored every trimester and for 1 year postpartum as indicated by the degree of retinopathy. (B)"
- "If there is no evidence of retinopathy for one or more annual eye exams and glycemia is well controlled, then screening every 1–2 years may be considered. (B)"
- "Programs that use retinal photography (with remote reading or use of a validated assessment tool) to improve access to diabetic retinopathy screening can be appropriate screening strategies for diabetic retinopathy. Such programs need to provide pathways for timely referral for a comprehensive eye examination when indicated. (B)"

"Artificial intelligence systems that detect more than mild diabetic retinopathy and diabetic macular edema authorized for use by the FDA represent an alternative to traditional screening approaches. However, the benefits and optimal utilization of this type of screening have yet to be fully determined."

ELIGIBLE PROCEDURE CODES

92227	Imaging Of Retina For Detection Or Monitoring Of Disease; With Remote Clinical Staff Review And Report, Unilateral Or Bilateral.
92228	Imaging Of Retina For Detection Or Monitoring Of Disease; With Remote Physician Or Other Qualified Health Care Professional Interpretation And Report Unilateral Or Bilateral.
92250	Fundus Photography With Interpretation And Report.

Eligible Diagnosis Codes for Procedure Codes 92227 and 92228

E08.8	E08.9	E08.00	E08.01	E08.10
E08.11	E08.21	E08.22	E08.29	E08.36
E08.39	E08.40	E08.41	E08.42	E08.43

E08.44	E08.49	E08.51	E08.52	E08.59
E08.65	E08.69	E08.610	E08.618	E08.620
E08.621	E08.622	E08.628	E08.630	E08.638
E08.641	E08.649	E09.8	E09.9	E09.00
E09.01	E09.10	E09.11	E09.21	E09.22
E09.29	E09.36	E09.39	E09.40	E09.41
E09.42	E09.43	E09.44	E09.49	E09.51
E09.52	E09.59	E09.65	E09.69	E09.610
E09.618	E09.620	E09.621	E09.622	E09.628
E09.630	E09.638	E09.641	E09.649	E10.8
E10.9	E10.10	E10.11	E10.21	E10.22
E10.29	E10.36	E10.39	E10.40	E10.41
E10.42	E10.43	E10.44	E10.49	E10.51
E10.52	E10.59	E10.65	E10.69	E10.610
E10.618	E10.620	E10.621	E10.622	E10.628
E10.630	E10.638	E10.641	E10.649	E11.8
E11.9	E11.00	E11.01	E11.21	E11.22
E11.29	E11.36	E11.39	E11.40	E11.41
E11.42	E11.43	E11.44	E11.49	E11.51
E11.52	E11.59	E11.65	E11.69	E11.610
E11.618	E11.620	E11.621	E11.622	E11.628
E11.630	E11.638	E11.641	E11.649	E13.8
E13.9	E13.00	E13.01	E13.10	E13.11
E13.21	E13.22	E13.29	E13.36	E13.39
E13.40	E13.41	E13.42	E13.43	E13.44
E13.49	E13.51	E13.52	E13.59	E13.65
E13.69	E13.610	E13.618	E13.620	E13.621
E13.622	E13.628	E13.630	E13.638	E13.641
E13.649				

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