

Vision Therapy (Orthoptics and Pleoptics)

Policy ID:	HHO-DE-MP-1228
Approved By:	Highmark Health Options – Market Leadership
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Last Revision Date:	12/22/2021; 12/28/2022
Products:	Medicaid
Application:	All participating hospitals and providers
Page Number(s):	1 of 4

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

Highmark Health Options may provide coverage under medical surgical benefits of the Company’s Medicaid products for medically necessary vision therapy, orthoptics and pleoptics.

This policy is designed to address medical necessity guidelines that are appropriate for the majority of individuals with a particular disease, illness or condition. Each person’s unique clinical circumstances warrant individual consideration, based upon review of applicable medical records.

The qualifications of the policy will meet the standards of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and all applicable state and federal regulations.

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 services Delaware Medicaid: Delaware Health Children (DHCP) and Diamond State Health Plan Plus members.

Orthoptics – Exercises designed to improve accommodation (focusing) and binocular vision (eye muscle coordination). Orthoptics may be considered particularly useful in the treatment of strabismus (crossed or wandering eyes).

Pleoptics – Exercises designed to treat amblyopia, particularly in association with eccentric fixation.

PROCEDURES

A prior authorization is required.

Othoptics and pleoptics may be considered medically necessary for ANY of the following (not an all-inclusive list):

- Amblyopia; or
- Strabismus; or
- Accommodative dysfunction; or
- General binocular dysfunction.

A maximum of two (2) exercise sessions per week for one (1) treatment period of six (6) consecutive months (based on a seven (7)-day week beginning with the first treatment session may be considered medically necessary as prescribed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist and performed by an optometrist, vision therapist or an occupational therapist.

The following methods of therapy are considered not medically necessary:

- Vision therapy for the treatment of learning disabilities, poor school test scores, and behavioral problems; and
- Vision therapy performed to maintain a level of function; and
- Home computer orthoptic programs as there are no direct professional services rendered with home use.

Vision therapy beyond two (2) sessions per week for a six (6) month period as indicated in this policy will be considered not medically necessary.

Documentation will be required to substantiate medical necessity for further treatments beyond initial six months. Vision therapy not meeting the criteria as indicated in this policy is considered not medically necessary and therefore noncovered.

POST-PAYMENT AUDIT STATEMENT

The medical record must include documentation that reflects the medical necessity criteria and is subject to audit by Highmark Health Options at any time pursuant to the terms of your provider agreement.

PLACE OF SERVICE: OUTPATIENT

Vision Therapy (Orthoptics and Pleoptics) is typically an outpatient procedure which is only eligible for coverage as an inpatient procedure in special circumstances, including, but not limited to, the presence of a co-morbid condition that would require monitoring in a more controlled environment such as the inpatient setting.

CODING REQUIREMENTS

CPT code	Description
92065	Orthoptic and/or pleoptic training, with continuing medical direction and evaluation.

COVERED DIAGNOSIS CODES FOR PROCEDURE CODE 92065

Codes						
H49.00	H49.01	H49.02	H49.03	H49.10	H49.11	H49.12
H49.13	H49.20	H49.21	H49.22	H49.23	H49.881	H49.882
H49.883	H49.889	H49.9	H50.00	H50.10	H50.21	H50.22
H50.30	H50.40	H50.50	H50.51	H50.52	H50.53	H50.60

H50.611	H50.612	H50.69	H50.89	H50.9	H51.11	H51.9
H52.531	H52.532	H52.533	H52.539	H53.001	H53.002	H53.003
H53.009	H53.011	H53.012	H53.013	H53.019	H53.021	H53.022
H53.023	H53.029	H53.031	H53.032	H53.033	H53.039	H53.32
H53.33	H55.82					

REIMBURSEMENT

Participating facilities will be reimbursed per their Highmark Health Options contract.

Reference

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Ely M, Ostorsky M. Applying the foundational concepts from early intervention to services provided to young children with visual impairments: A literature review. *J Vis Impair Blind*. 2018;225-238.

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American Academy of Ophthalmology. Preferred Practice Pattern for Esotropia and Exotropia. American Academy of Ophthalmology; 2017.

American Academy of Ophthalmology. Preferred Practice Pattern for Strabismus. American Academy of Ophthalmology; 2017.

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY

12/21/2021	Approved in Medical Policy Committee
01/2022	Approved in QI/UM
12/28/2022	Annual review; approved in Medical Policy Committee
01/03/2023	Approved in QI/UM