

MEDICAID SERVICES MANUAL
TRANSMITTAL LETTER

September 29, 2015

TO: CUSTODIANS OF MEDICAID SERVICES MANUAL
 FROM: TAMMY MOFFITT, CHIEF OF PROGRAM INTEGRITY
 SUBJECT: MEDICAID SERVICES MANUAL CHANGES
 CHAPTER 1100 - OCULAR SERVICES

BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATION

Revisions to Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) Chapter 1100 are being proposed to clarify and eliminate duplicative language, and remove reference to the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD)-9 codes.

These changes are effective October 1, 2015.

MATERIAL TRANSMITTED

MTL 24/15
CHAPTER 1100 - OCULAR SERVICES

MATERIAL SUPERSEDED

MTL 32/03, 24/08, 20/09, 33/11
CHAPTER 1100 - OCULAR SERVICES

Manual Section	Section Title	Background and Explanation of Policy Changes, Clarifications and Updates
1103.1A.1.b	Coverage and Limitations	Deleted "EPSDT) from title, HEALTHY KIDS.
1103.1A.2.b		Spelled out acronym EPSDT - "Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment". Removed "(e.g., conjunctivitis, glaucoma examination)". Added language "within the scope of their license". Removed language "to receive services. Medical diagnosis ICD-9 codes must substantiate the service".
1103.1A.2.d		Removed language "Ocular examinations for the following medical conditions are covered based

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upon medical necessity and do not require prior authorization and are not limited to the 12 month restriction for examination and lenses”.

Added “Following cataract surgery, if the recipient is Medicare eligible and requires eyeglasses, the provider must bill Medicare first and attach the Medicare Explanation of Benefits (EOB) to the claim for co-insurance and deductible”.

Deleted language "1. Glaucoma 2. Diabetes. 3. Healthy Kids/EPSDT referral services. 4. Or, following cataract surgery. If the recipient is Medicare eligible, and requires eyeglasses, the provider must bill Medicare first and attach the Medicare EOB to the claim for co-insurance and deductible".

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

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1100 INTRODUCTION

The Nevada Medicaid Ocular program reimburses for medically necessary ocular services to eligible Medicaid recipients under the care of the prescribing practitioner. Such services shall maintain a high standard of quality and shall be provided within the limitations and exclusions described in this chapter.

All providers participating in the Medicaid program must offer services in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Medicaid program. Conditions of participation are available from Provider Support Services at Nevada Medicaid.

Ocular services are an optional benefit within the Nevada Medicaid Program.

All Medicaid policies and requirements, (such as prior authorizations, etc.) are the same for Nevada Check Up (NCU), with the exception of areas where Medicaid and NCU policies differ. For further clarification, please refer to the NCU Manual, Chapter 1000.

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1101 AUTHORITY

The citation denoting the amount, duration and scope of services are found in 42 Code of Federal Regulation, (CFR) Part 440.200, and sections 1902(a), 1902(e), 1905(a), 1905(p), 1915, 1920, and 1925 of the Social Security Act. CFR 440.225 and 441.30. New State Plan, Section 3.1 page 19, 216 and 27

The State Legislature sets forth standards of practice for licensed professionals in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) for the following Specialists:

- Physicians: NRS Chapter 630.375
- Optometry: NRS Chapter 636
- Dispensing Opticians: NRS Chapter 637

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1102 RESERVED

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1103 POLICY

1103.1 OCULAR SERVICES

1103.1A COVERAGE AND LIMITATIONS

Medicaid will reimburse for routine comprehensive ophthalmological examinations and/or refractive examinations of the eyes and glasses with a prescription for and provision of corrective eyeglasses to eligible Medicaid recipients of all ages once every twelve months. Any exceptions require prior authorizations.

1. HEALTHY KIDS (EPSDT)

- a. Nevada Medicaid provides for vision screenings as referred by any appropriate health, developmental, or educational professional after a Healthy Kids Screening Exam. Optometrists and ophthalmologists may perform such exams without prior authorization upon request or identification of medical need. "Medical Need" may be identified as any ophthalmological examination performed to diagnose, treat, or follow any ophthalmological condition that has been identified during the Healthy Kids examination.
- b. Glasses may be provided at any interval without prior authorization for **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)** recipients, as long as there is a change in refractive status from the most recent exam, or for broken or lost glasses. Physician records must reflect this change and the records must be available for review for the time mandated by the federal government. Recipients enrolled in a Managed Care plan are mandated to access Healthy Kids EPSDT ocular services through their Managed Care provider.

2. EXAMINATIONS

- a. Refractive examinations performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist are covered for Medicaid recipients of all ages once every twelve months. Any exceptions require prior authorization.
- b. Ocular examinations performed by an optometrist for medical conditions **within the scope of their license** do not require a prior authorization.
- c. Ocular examinations performed by an ophthalmologist for medical conditions do not require prior authorization and are considered a regular physician visit. Current limitations are based on medical necessity.

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- d. Following cataract surgery, if the recipient is Medicare eligible and requires eyeglasses, the provider must bill Medicare first and attach the Medicare Explanation of Benefits (EOB) to the claim for co-insurance and deductible.

3. LENSES

Lenses are covered for recipients of all ages. No prior authorization is needed for recipients under 21. For recipients over 21, a prior authorization is required if the 12 month limitation is exceeded.

a. COVERED

The following are covered for Nevada Medicaid recipients of all ages as noted:

1. A change in refractive error must exceed plus or minus 0.5 diopter or 10 degrees in axis deviation in order to qualify within the 12 month limitation;
2. Lens material may be tempered glass tillyer grade or equivalent, or standard plastic, at recipient's option;
3. Ultra lightweight plastics, e.g., Lite Style and polycarbonate-style, are covered when they are medically necessary to avoid very heavy glasses which would hurt the bridge of the nose. The acceptable means for avoiding severe imbalance of the weight of the glasses are up to ± 7 diopters in children;
4. Polycarbonate lenses are covered under EPSDT when medically necessary.
5. Safety lenses when the recipient has vision in only one eye;
6. A single plano or balance lens is handled as if it were a corrective lens, and so called "half glasses" are handled as if they were standard size corrective lenses;
7. Slab-off lenses, Prisms, Aspheric, Lenticular lenses;
8. "Executive" bifocals may be covered for children with: esotropia, and esophoria, accommodation, oculomotor dysfunction such as tracking and saccadic problems. Prior authorization is not required when using one of the above medical diagnoses;

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9. Filters: PLS 40 filters when prescribed for patients with the following diagnoses: macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, rod/cone dystrophy, or achromastopia. In all these cases, the best uncorrected vision must test better than 20/200;
10. UV filters when prescribed following cataract surgery;
11. Bifocals and trifocals are reimbursable for a combination of any of the conditions at near or far point, including but not limited to: estropia, esophoria, cataracts, glaucoma, accommodative dysfunctions, nystogmus, stigmatism, myopia, presbyopia;
12. Double segment lenses required for employment which must be prior authorized;
13. Therapeutic contact lenses when prescribed for treatment of a medical condition;
14. Tints are covered when medically necessary;
15. Low vision aides such as telescopic lenses, magnifying glasses, bioptic systems and special inserts in regular lenses which must be prior authorized;
16. Scratch-proof coatings for plastic lenses are covered for EPSDT recipients.

b. NON-COVERED

The following are not covered:

1. Sunglasses and cosmetic lenses.
2. Contact lenses are disallowed UNLESS their use is:
 - a. The only means to bring vision to the minimum criteria required to avoid legal blindness; or
 - b. Medically indicated following cataract surgery; or
 - c. The necessary means for avoiding very heavy glasses which would hurt the bridge of the nose (e.g., where the correction is 9+ diopters in each eye). The necessary means for avoiding severe imbalance of the weight of glasses is where one eye is corrected to 9+ diopters and the other eye is 3+; or

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- d. Required when the recipient has a diagnosis of Keratoconus.
 - 3. Replacement of lenses, unless the patient has a significant change in refractive status.
 - 4. Blended and progressive multi-focal lenses, “transitional lenses”.
 - 5. Faceted lenses.
 - 6. “Additional” Cost of an Extended Repair, Replacement warranty (ERR).
4. **FRAMES**
- a. **COVERED**
 - 1. Existing frames must be used whenever possible. If new frames are necessary, they may be metal or plastic, at the patient's option, up to Medicaid’s allowable cost.
 - 2. Providers must stock a variety of frames to enable the recipient to choose a frame at no cost to them, if they so choose.
 - b. **NON-COVERED**

The following are not covered:

 - 1. Frames with ornamentation.
 - 2. Eyeglass frames which attach to or act as a holder for hearing aid(s).
5. **OCULAR PROSTHESIS**
- Ocular prostheses are a covered Medicaid benefit and must be prior authorized.
6. **VISION THERAPY**
- Vision therapy is a covered Medicaid benefit and must be prior authorized by the QIO-like vendor.

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1103.1B PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITY

1. Providers must confirm the recipient's eligibility by reviewing the current Medicaid card before providing services, or access eligibility via the Electronic Verification of Eligibility (EVE) system.
2. It is the provider's responsibility to ask the recipient if there is additional visual coverage through third party payers.

1103.1C RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITY

Services requested by the recipient but for which Medicaid makes no payment are the responsibility of, and may be billed to, the recipient. Nevada Medicaid recipients are only responsible for payment of services not covered by Medicaid, such as eyeglass extras. Prior to service, the recipient must be informed in writing and agree in writing he/she will be responsible for payment.

1. The recipient is responsible for presenting a valid Medicaid card to the examiner and/or optician.
2. The recipient is responsible for presenting any form or identification necessary to utilize other health insurance coverage.
3. If the recipient selects a frame with a wholesale cost greater than the Medicaid allowable, they will be responsible for the additional amount. The recipient's agreement to make payment must be in writing. A copy of the agreement must be retained in the recipient's chart. The Nevada Medicaid Surveillance and Utilization Review Unit (SURS) conducts a regular review of claims history to monitor this.
4. If the recipient selects a lens options not covered by Medicaid, he/she is then responsible for payment only of the non-covered options. Medicaid pays the lens cost minus the cost of options. Non-covered options must be listed separately on the invoice. Claims will be returned to providers for correction.
5. If the recipient chooses an Extended Repair Replacement warranty (ERR) which is not covered by Medicaid's payment, he/she is responsible for warranty payment.
6. The recipient is responsible for making and keeping appointments with the doctor.
7. The recipient is responsible for contacting the provider of the eyeglasses (if different from the examiner) for fitting and delivery.

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8. The recipient is responsible for picking up the eyeglasses and returning for any necessary adjustments within the time allotted for such adjustments. (Medicaid will not pay for office visits for adjustments. The provider is expected to make reasonable adjustments and repair, without charge).

9. UNCLAIMED EYEGLASSES

The recipient has 15 days to claim eyeglasses reimbursed by Nevada Medicaid. If after 15 days the item is still held by the provider:

- a. The provider shall notify the appropriate district office.
- b. The caseworker attempts to contact the recipient and make arrangements to claim the eyeglasses.

If the caseworker is unable to contact the recipient or the recipient refuses to claim the eyeglasses, the worker advises the Nevada Medicaid Office (NMO) and notifies the provider the item will not be picked up NMO then notifies Utilization Control for a possible restriction of the recipient's medical services.

- c. Following notification the item will remain unclaimed; provider may submit a bill in the normal fashion to the Nevada Medicaid fiscal agent.

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1104 HEARINGS

Please reference Nevada Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) Chapter 3100, for Medicaid Recipient Hearings process.