Ophthalmology
A comprehensive illustrated guide to coding and reimbursement
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Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1-stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification), complex, requiring devices or techniques not generally used in routine cataract surgery (eg, iris expansion device, suture support for intraocular lens, or primary posterior capsulorhexis) or performed on patients in the amblyogenic developmental stage.

**Explanation**

The physician performs a complex extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of an intraocular lens prosthesis in a one-stage procedure. A local anesthetic is injected into the periorbital area. The physician makes a small incision where the cornea and sclera meet and, upon entering the eye through the incision, gently opens the front of the capsule and removes the hard center, or nucleus, of the lens. Using a microscope, the ophthalmologist suctions out the soft lens cortex, leaving the capsule in place. The area is irrigated and aspiration or phacoemulsification, complex, requiring devices or techniques not generally used in routine cataract surgery (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification), or primary posterior capsulorhexis) or performed on patients in the amblyogenic developmental stage.

**Coding Tips**

This is a unilateral procedure. If performed bilaterally, some payers require that the service be reported twice with modifier 50 appended to the second code while others require identification of the service only once with modifier 50 appended. Check with individual payers. Modifier 50 identifies a procedure performed identically on the opposite side of the body (mirror image). Local anesthesia is included in this service. However, this procedure may be performed under general anesthesia, depending on the age and/or condition of the patient. Note that 66982 is for complex extracapsular cataract removal. If the procedure is not complex, see 66984. This procedure includes the insertion of the intraocular lens. For intraocular lens prostheses supplied by physician, see 99070. For ultrasonic determination of intraocular lens power, see 76519. For insertion of ocular telescope prosthesis, see 0308T. Supplies used when providing this procedure may be reported with C1780, C1840, Q004, Q1005, V2630, V2631, V2632, V2787, or V2788. Check with the specific payer to determine coverage.

**ICD-10-CM Diagnostic Codes**

- H21.81 Floppy iris syndrome
- H25.011 Cortical age-related cataract, right eye
- H25.012 Cortical age-related cataract, left eye
- H25.013 Cortical age-related cataract, bilateral
- H25.031 Anterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, right eye
- H25.032 Anterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, left eye
- H25.033 Anterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, bilateral
- H25.041 Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, right eye
- H25.042 Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, left eye
- H25.043 Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, bilateral
- H25.091 Other age-related incipient cataract, right eye
- H25.092 Other age-related incipient cataract, left eye
- H25.093 Other age-related incipient cataract, bilateral
- H25.11 Age-related nuclear cataract, right eye
- H25.12 Age-related nuclear cataract, left eye
- H25.13 Age-related nuclear cataract, bilateral
- H25.21 Age-related cataract, morgagnian type, right eye
- H25.22 Age-related cataract, morgagnian type, left eye
- H25.23 Age-related cataract, morgagnian type, bilateral
- H25.811 Combined forms of age-related cataract, right eye
- H25.812 Combined forms of age-related cataract, left eye
- H25.813 Combined forms of age-related cataract, bilateral
- H26.011 Infantile and juvenile cortical, lamellar, or zonular cataract, right eye
- H26.012 Infantile and juvenile cortical, lamellar, or zonular cataract, left eye
- H26.013 Infantile and juvenile cortical, lamellar, or zonular cataract, bilateral
- H26.031 Infantile and juvenile nuclear cataract, right eye
- H26.032 Infantile and juvenile nuclear cataract, left eye
- H26.033 Infantile and juvenile nuclear cataract, bilateral
- H26.041 Anterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
- H26.042 Anterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye
- H26.043 Anterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral
- H26.051 Posterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
- H26.052 Posterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye
- H26.053 Posterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral
- H26.061 Combined forms of infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
- H26.062 Combined forms of infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye
- H26.063 Combined forms of infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral

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156 — Anterior Segment
H26.111 Localized traumatic opacities, right eye
H26.112 Localized traumatic opacities, left eye
H26.113 Localized traumatic opacities, bilateral
H26.121 Total traumatic cataract, right eye
H26.122 Total traumatic cataract, left eye
H26.123 Total traumatic cataract, bilateral
H26.20 Unspecified complicated cataract
H26.211 Cataract with neovascularization, right eye
H26.212 Cataract with neovascularization, left eye
H26.213 Cataract with neovascularization, bilateral
H26.221 Cataract secondary to ocular disorders (degenerative) (inflammatory), right eye
H26.222 Cataract secondary to ocular disorders (degenerative) (inflammatory), left eye
H26.223 Cataract secondary to ocular disorders (degenerative) (inflammatory), bilateral
H26.231 Glaucomatous flecks (subcapsular), right eye
H26.232 Glaucomatous flecks (subcapsular), left eye
H26.233 Glaucomatous flecks (subcapsular), bilateral
H26.31 Drug-induced cataract, right eye
H26.32 Drug-induced cataract, left eye
H26.33 Drug-induced cataract, bilateral
H26.411 Soemmering's ring, right eye
H26.412 Soemmering's ring, left eye
H26.413 Soemmering's ring, bilateral
H26.491 Other secondary cataract, right eye
H26.492 Other secondary cataract, left eye
H26.493 Other secondary cataract, bilateral
Q12.0 Congenital cataract

ICD-10-CM Diagnostic Codes

H25.011 Cortical age-related cataract, right eye

HCPCS Equivalent Codes
N/A

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Explanation

Intracapsular cataract extraction (ICCE) is when the lens and capsule are removed intact. The physician inserts an ocular speculum. An incision is made in the corneal-scleral juncture (the limbus). To enhance the flow of fluids in the eye, the physician may punch a hole in the iris before inserting a surgical instrument filled with coolant (cryoprobe) into the anterior chamber. The lens adheres to the cryoprobe as it freezes, and when the cryoprobe is removed, the lens comes with it. The physician injects a bubble of air into the anterior chamber to protect the cornea. The physician places an intracocular lens in the anterior chamber. The optic, or center, of the implant lies centered at the pupil and the haptics (securing attachments) of the implant are wedged in the anterior chamber, fixating the implant so it cannot move. The physician may close the incision with sutures and may restore the intraocular pressure with an injection of water or saline. A topical antibiotic or pressure patch may be applied.

Coding Tips

Lateral canthotomy, iridectomy, iridotomy, anterior capsulotomy, posterior capsulotomy, the use of viscoelastic agents, enzymatic zonulysis, and other pharmacologic agents, as well as subconjunctival or sub-Tenon injections, are included as part of this code for the extraction of the lens and should not be reported separately. This procedure is less common than extracapsular extraction and is generally reserved for patients whose natural lenses are not secure. This procedure is generally performed with a retrobulbar injection rather than general anesthesia. This procedure includes the insertion of the intracocular lens. For insertion of an ocular telescope prosthesis, see 0308T. Do not report 0308T in conjunction with 66983. For ultrasonic determination of IOL power, see 76519. Supplies used when providing this procedure may be reported with HCPCS Level II codes C1780, C9447, Q1004, Q1005, V2630, V2631, V2632, V2787, and V2788. Check with the specific payer to determine coverage.

ICD-10-CM Diagnostic Codes

H25.011 Cortical age-related cataract, right eye
Visual field examination, unilateral or bilateral, with interpretation and report; limited examination (eg, tangent screen, Autoplot, arc perimeter, or single stimulus level automated test, such as Octopus 3 or 7 equivalent)

The patient’s visual field is examined, including interpretation and report. The test involves a limited examination.

**Explanation**
A visual field test measures the extent of the field of vision as an eye fixates straight ahead, with standard illumination. Any peripheral vision loss or blind spots are documented. The blind spots are plotted on visual field charts. This code reports a limited examination, such as a tangent screen, Autoplot, arc perimeter, or a single stimulus level automated test, such as Octopus 3 or 7. A tangent screen, for example, is a black screen made of felt mounted on the wall that has meridians, blind spot, and degrees from fixation stitched into it. Fixation is the direction of gaze that allows the object’s visual image to fall on the central fovea of the retina—the area of most acute vision. With one eye occluded and full distance correction worn, white spots are introduced and the patient is tested at one and/or two meters. The points are transferred from screen to a chart.

**Coding Tips**
Gross or general visual field examination, such as confrontation testing, provides a general estimate of peripheral vision and is included in general ophthalmologic examination and evaluation. It is not reported separately.

**ICD-10-CM Diagnostic Codes**
The application of this code is too broad to adequately present ICD-10-CM diagnostic codes here. Refer to your ICD-10-CM book.

**HCPCS Equivalent Codes**
N/A

**Terms To Know**
acute. Sudden, severe.
bilateral. Consisting of or affecting two sides.
choroid. Thin, nourishing vascular layer of the eye that supplies blood to the retina, arteries, and nerves to structures in the anterior part of the eye.
chronic. Persistent, continuing, or recurring.
macular degeneration. Age-related deterioration of the central portion of the retina (macula), causing blurring of central vision. There are two forms. The more advanced, wet macular degeneration, results from the formation of abnormal blood vessels behind the retina that grow under the macula. These fragile vessels leak blood and fluid and displace the macula from its normal position at the back of the eye. Central vision loss occurs quickly. Dry macular degeneration results from deterioration of the light-sensitive cells in the macula causing gradually blurring central vision. As macular degeneration progresses, central vision can be lost.
neovascularization. Formation of abnormal blood vessels in the eye, often found in diabetic retinopathy, central retinal vein obstruction, or macular degeneration. These blood vessels are fragile and tend to hemorrhage.
peripheral. Outside of a structure or organ.
retina. Layer of tissue located at the back of the eye that is sensitive to light similar to that of film in a camera.
retinal tear. Vitreous detachment that disengages in such a way as to cause a tear in the retina.
retinopathy of prematurity. Disease of the eye found in premature infants and occurring when aberrant blood vessels grow and spread through the tissue lining the back of the eye (retina). When these fragile blood vessels leak, the retina is scarred and displaced, causing retinal detachment. Retinopathy of prematurity is the leading cause of blindness in children.
unilateral. Located on or affecting one side.
visual field. Total area in which objects can be seen in the peripheral vision while the eye is focused on a central point.
vitreous. Clear gel filling the posterior segment of the eye and functioning as a refractive component in vision and as a method of maintaining pressure in the posterior segment.

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