

Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

Prove Medical Necessity for SLGT With These ICD-9 Codes

Carriers are finicky about 92135 - check this list for approved diagnoses

Scanning laser glaucoma testing (SLGT) is a young technology, and while most carriers will reimburse for it, you must still be sure to document medical necessity for 92135 (Scanning computerized ophthalmic diagnostic imaging with interpretation and report, unilateral).

Example: Below are the ICD-9 codes that one carrier, Empire Medicare Services of New York and New Jersey, will accept with 92135.

1. 115.02 - Infection by Histoplasma capsulatum; retinitis
2. 190.6 - Malignant neoplasm of eye; choroid
3. 224.6 - Benign neoplasm of eye; choroid
4. 228.03 - Hemangioma of retina
5. 361.00-361.9 - Retinal detachments and defects
6. 362.01-362.85 - Other retinal disorders
7. 363.00-363.72 - Choroidal inflammations, scars and other disorders of choroid
8. 364.04 - Secondary iridocyclitis, noninfectious
9. 364.22 - Glaucomatocyclitic crises
10. 364.53 - Pigmentary iris degeneration
11. 364.73 - Goniosynechiae
12. 364.74 - Adhesions and disruptions of pupillary membranes
13. 364.77 - Recession of chamber angle of eye
14. 365.00-365.9 - Glaucoma
15. 368.40-368.45 - Visual field defects
16. 377.00-377.15 - Disorders of optic nerve and visual pathways
17. 377.9 - Unspecified disorder of optic nerve and visual pathways
18. 743.20-743.22 - Buphthalmos.

Not so fast: "You really need to consult your Medicare carrier for Medicare patients," says **David Gibson, OD, FAAO**,

an optometrist practicing in Lubbock, Texas. "This list is more generous than [Texas Part B carrier] Trailblazer's is. And the approved diagnosis list for private carriers is smaller still." Aetna, for example, still considers the scanning laser "experimental and investigational," and will not approve 92135 for any diagnosis.