

Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

Reader Question: A Map for Reporting Topography

Question: How should we correctly bill topography? We used 92499 (Unlisted ophthalmological service or procedure) and sent a copy of the test along with the claim. Insurance carriers and Medicare just won't pay.

Nevada Subscriber

Answer: When reporting 92499, make sure that you have corneal topography typed into the comments area or Box 19 on your claim form and send a description with the claim. For non-Medicare payers, you may try using HCPCS code S0820 (Computerized corneal topography, unilateral) for this procedure.

Just keep in mind that all payers are not required to recognize HCPCS codes, and there is a plan eventually to phase out the use of HCPCS codes. Make sure you use the appropriate ICD-9 codes in order to get paid when billing topography.