

Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

Reader Questions: Learn the Trick to Distichiasis Coding

Question: I am unable to find a diagnosis code for distichiasis. The patient had an eyelash in the right upper lid. Also, would the CPT code for the removal be under foreign-body removal (FBR)?

California Subscriber

Answer: The index of the ICD-9 manual directs you to 743.63 (Other specified congenital anomalies of eyelid) for distichiasis, a rare congenital condition that results in a second row of eyelashes. The extra eyelashes grow from the Meibomian glands, and may even grow enough to irritate the cornea.

For removal with forceps, report 67820 (Correction of trichiasis; epilation, by forceps only). Although most Medicare carriers will reimburse epilation only once for each eye treated, check your local carrier's guidelines for coding instructions.