

Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

Reader Questions: Look at 371.6X for Keratoconus Patient

Question: What would the correct diagnosis codes be for an exam with the diagnosis post-keratoplasty in the right eye, and keratoconus in the left eye?

Alabama Subscriber

Answer: Report ICD-9 code 371.60 (Keratoconus, unspecified), 371.61 (Keratoconus, stable condition) or 371.62 (Keratoconus, acute hydrops) for the keratoconic left eye. To show the post-keratoplasty status in the right eye, report V42.5 (Organ or tissue replaced by transplant; cornea).

Keep in mind, however, that some insurers balk at reimbursing for V codes. Policies vary depending on which specific carrier you-re billing.

Note: If you-re fitting a keratoconus patient for contact lenses, avoid 92310 (Prescription of optical and physical characteristics of and fitting of contact lens, with medical supervision of adaptation; corneal lens, both eyes, except for aphakia). Use that code only when prescribing contacts to correct a refractive error. If the patient has keratoconus, which is a medical condition, report 92070 (Fitting of contact lens for treatment of disease, including supply of lens).

To learn more, see "Prove Medical Necessity for Fitting Contacts and Earn \$65 Each Time" in Optometry Coding & Billing Alert, Vol. 6, No. 7.