



Clinical Review Criteria Related to Endothelial Keratoplasty

Endothelial Keratoplasty

Descemet's stripping endothelial keratoplasty (DSEK), Descemet's stripping automated endothelial keratoplasty (DSAEK), and Descemet's membrane endothelial keratoplasty (DLEK) or Descemet's membrane automated endothelial keratoplasty (DMAEK)

I. Criteria for Approval

- A. DSEK, DSAEK, and DMEK or DMAEK are considered medically necessary for treatment of endothelial dysfunction in the following indications:
1. Aphakic and pseudophakic bullous keratopathy
 2. Corneal edema attributed to endothelial failure
 3. Endothelial dystrophy (Fuch's dystrophy) and other posterior corneal dystrophies
 4. Mechanical complications due to corneal graft or ocular lens prostheses
 5. Rupture of Descemet's membrane
 6. Iridocorneal endothelial (ICE) syndrome
 7. Failure or rejection of a previous corneal transplant

II. What is Not Covered

- A. Minuteman Health Insurance (MHI) considers Endothelial Keratoplasty procedures experimental/investigational for conditions with concurrent endothelial disease and anterior corneal disease including:
1. Anterior corneal dystrophies
 2. Anterior corneal scars from trauma or prior infection
 3. Keratoconus
 4. Pellucid marginal degeneration and ectasia post previous laser vision correction surgery
- B. Femtosecond laser-assisted corneal endothelial keratoplasty (FLEK) or femtosecond and excimer laser-assisted endothelial keratoplasty (FELEK) are also considered investigational.

III. Required Documentation

- A. Clinical office notes from treating provider

CPT Codes:

- 65756 Keratoplasty (corneal transplant); endothelial
65755 Backbench preparation of corneal endothelial allograft prior to transplantation.
(List separately in addition to code for primary procedure.)

References:

NCQA Standard, UM2, Clinical Criteria for Utilization Management Decisions, Element A

Philip Maier, Thomas Reinhard, Claus Cursiefen. Descemet Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty-Rapid Recovery of Visual Acuity, Dtsch Arztebl Int 2013May; 110 (21):365-371.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3679620/>

(Last Accessed 8/22/16)

Lee WB, Jacobs DS, Musch DC et al. Descemet's stripping endothelial keratoplasty: safety and outcomes: a report by the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Ophthalmology 2009 Sep; 116(9):1818-30.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19643492>

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Dapena I, Ham L, Melles GR. Endothelial keratoplasty: DSEK/DSEK or DMEK--the thinner the better? Curr Opin Ophthalmol 2009 Jul; 20(4):299-307.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19417653>

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Summary of Changes:

02/09/2017

- Source/ Citation Section: updated last accessed dates.