

CBR202103: Comprehensive Eye Examinations **Guidance and Considerations**



Caution

Ophthalmology Current Procedural Terminology® (CPT®) codes are vulnerable to improper payments, primarily as the result of insufficient documentation.

Source: [2020 Medicare Fee-for-Service Supplemental Improper Payment Data](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). CMS.gov.



Review

Review encounter documentation and choose your code carefully, according to the service provided to the patient and the services documented for the encounter. Remember, if it was not documented, it was not done!



Implement

Help to reduce the possibility of improper payments by selecting the proper CPT® code based on the coding guidelines. The following information is from the *CPT® 2021 Professional Edition*:

Intermediate Ophthalmological Services

“Evaluation of new or existing condition complicated with a new diagnostic or management problem, including history, general medical observation, external ocular and adnexal examination and other diagnostic procedures as indicated; may include the use of mydriasis for ophthalmology.”

Comprehensive Ophthalmological Services

“A general evaluation of the complete visual system. The comprehensive services constitute a single service entity but need not be performed at one session. The service includes history, general medical observation, external and basic sensorimotor examination. It often includes, as indicated: biomicroscopy, examination with cycloplegia or mydriasis and tonometry. It always includes initiation of diagnostic and treatment programs.”

Source: *CPT® 2021 Professional Edition*. American Medical Association.