

Origination Date: 4/08	Revision Date(s): 4/09
Developed By: Medical Criteria Committee	

Csaba Mera MD.

Approved: Csaba Mera, MD Date: 04/13/09

Description:

Aphakia is an absence of the lens in the eye. It may occur congenitally or from trauma, but is most commonly caused by extraction of a cataract. This lens is generally replaced after cataract surgery with the implantation of an intraocular lens (IOL). Intraocular lenses (of any type) are designed to replace the defective (e.g. traumatized, cataracts, or other disease) human crystalline lens. The IOL is usually inserted during the same surgery as the natural lens is removed. At times, the IOL may be inserted later in a secondary, separate operation.

There are several types of intraocular lenses that are currently used:

Conventional Intraocular Lens (IOL)

A conventional intraocular lens (IOL) is a small, lightweight clear disk that replaces the eye's natural lens. Use of a conventional IOL causes presbyopia. Presbyopia is when the eye loses the ability to focus clearly on objects at varying distances (near and far).

Presbyopia Correcting and Accommodative Intraocular Lens (IOL)

A presbyopia correcting intraocular lens (P-IOL), otherwise known as an accommodative intraocular lens (A-IOL), can provide the same results in correcting presbyopia as a conventional IOL used with eyeglasses or contact lenses.

Astigmatism Correcting Intraocular Lens (A-C IOL)

An astigmatism correcting intraocular lens (A-C IOL) can provide the same results in correcting astigmatism as a conventional IOL used with eyeglasses or contact lenses.

Criteria:

COVERED

- ODS will cover a conventional IOL to plan limitations following cataract surgery.

NOT COVERED

- Presbyopia correcting IOLs (V2788) and astigmatism correcting IOLs (V2787) or any other IOL that alters the refractive character of the eye will **NOT** be covered. These intraocular lenses are not the least costly alternative and therefore, not medically necessary. In addition, surgery to alter the refractive character of the eye is typically not a covered benefit. Check specific plan benefits.

References:

- Menapace R, Findl O, Kriechbaum K, et al. Accommodating intraocular lenses: a critical review of present and future concepts. *Graefes Arch Clin Exp Ophthalmol*. 2007 Apr;245(4):473-89.
- Tonekaboni K, Whitsett AJ. The IOL horizon: accommodative intraocular lenses. *Optometry*. 2005 Mar;76(3):185-90.
- Mendicute J, Irigoyen C, Aramberri J, et al. Foldable toric lens for astigmatism correction in cataract patients. *J Cataract Refract Surg*. 2008 Apr;34(4):601-7.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). National Coverage Determination (NCD) for intraocular lenses (IOLs) (80.12). Effective 5/19/97. Accessed March 28, 2008. Available at URL address: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/ncd103c1_Part1.pdf
- Physician Advisors