



MEDICAL COVERAGE POLICY

SERVICE: Orthoptic and Vision Therapy

Policy Number: 211

Effective Date: 09/01/2022

Last Review: 07/27/2023

Next Review Date: 07/27/2024

Important note

Unless otherwise indicated, this policy will apply to all lines of business.

Even though this policy may indicate that a particular service or supply may be considered medically necessary and thus covered, this conclusion is not based upon the terms of your particular benefit plan. Each benefit plan contains its own specific provisions for coverage and exclusions. Not all benefits that are determined to be medically necessary will be covered benefits under the terms of your benefit plan. You need to consult the Evidence of Coverage (EOC) or Summary Plan Description (SPD) to determine if there are any exclusions or other benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. If there is a discrepancy between this policy and your plan of benefits, the provisions of your benefits plan will govern. However, applicable state mandates will take precedence with respect to fully insured plans and self-funded non-ERISA (e.g., government, school boards, church) plans. Unless otherwise specifically excluded, Federal mandates will apply to all plans. With respect to Medicare-linked plan members, this policy will apply unless there are Medicare policies that provide differing coverage rules, in which case Medicare coverage rules supersede guidelines in this policy. Medicare-linked plan policies will only apply to benefits paid for under Medicare rules, and not to any other health benefit plan benefits. CMS's Coverage Issues Manual can be found on the CMS website. Similarly, for Medicaid-linked plans, the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPM) supersedes coverage guidelines in this policy where applicable.

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PRIOR AUTHORIZATION: Required.

POLICY: Please review the plan's EOC (Evidence of Coverage) or Summary Plan Description (SPD) for coverage details.

For Medicare plans, please refer to appropriate Medicare NCD (National Coverage Determination) or LCD (Local Coverage Determination). If there is no applicable NCD or LCD, use the criteria set forth below.

For Medicaid plans, please confirm coverage as outlined in the Texas Medicaid TMPPM.

Orthoptic or vision therapy may be medically necessary for the treatment of convergence insufficiency (ability of eyes to fix on the same point) in the absence of accommodative (focusing) disorder. Requests for vision therapy exceeding 12 visits may not be medically necessary.

Orthoptic or vision therapy is considered **NOT** medically necessary for all other indications including, but not limited to, the following conditions:

- exotropia (eye deviates outward)
- nystagmus (involuntary movement of the eyeballs)
- convergence excess (double vision)
- dyslexia and other learning and reading disabilities
- learning disability or language disorder, including developmental delay

OVERVIEW (from American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus website):

"Vision therapy" is a term used by optometrists. Optometrists define vision therapy as an attempt to develop or improve visual skills and abilities; improve visual comfort, ease, and efficiency; and change visual processing or interpretation of visual information. An optometric vision therapy program may consist of

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exercises, lenses, prisms, filters, patches, electronic targets, or balance boards. There are three main categories of vision therapy: 1) Orthoptic vision therapy – eye exercises to improve binocular function; 2) Behavioral/perceptual vision therapy – eye exercises to improve visual processing and visual perception; 3) Vision therapy for prevention or correction of myopia (nearsightedness)

Does orthoptic vision therapy work? Orthoptic eye exercises as prescribed by pediatric ophthalmologists, orthoptists, and optometrists can be beneficial in the treatment of symptomatic convergence insufficiency.

Does behavioral vision therapy work? Behavioral vision therapy is considered to be scientifically unproven.

Does vision therapy for the prevention or correction of myopia work? There is no evidence that vision therapy delays the progression or leads to correction of myopia.

Do “training glasses” work? The scientific literature shows no experimental evidence of any benefits from a low-plus “training glasses”.

Does vision therapy improve learning disabilities and dyslexia? Many scientific studies have demonstrated that ocular coordination, motility, and visual processing are normal in children with dyslexia. The scientific evidence does not support the use of eye exercises or behavioral/perceptual vision therapy in improving the long-term educational performance in children with learning disabilities.

MANDATES: None.

CODES:

Important note:

CODES: Due to the wide range of applicable diagnosis codes and potential changes to codes, an inclusive list may not be presented, but the following codes may apply. Inclusion of a code in this section does not guarantee that it will be reimbursed, and patient must meet the criteria set forth in the policy language.

CPT Codes:	92065 Orthoptic and/or pleoptic training, with continuing medical direction and evaluation
ICD10 codes covered:	H51.11 - Convergence insufficiency
ICD10 NOT covered:	H50.0xx - Esotropia H53.0xx - Amblyopia

CMS: There are no NCDs or LCDs

POLICY HISTORY:

Status	Date	Action
New	02/12/2015	New policy
Reviewed	02/04/2016	No changes
Reviewed	03/07/2017	No changes
Reviewed	01/30/2018	No changes
Reviewed	03/28/2019	Revised coverage statement.
Reviewed	06/25/2020	Added language for use across all LOBs
Reviewed	06/24/2021	No changes
Reviewed	06/23/2022	No changes
Reviewed	07/27/2023	No changes

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REFERENCES:

The following scientific references were utilized in the formulation of this medical policy. BSWHP will continue to review clinical evidence related to this policy and may modify it at a later date based upon the evolution of the published clinical evidence. Should additional scientific studies become available and they are not included in the list, please forward the reference(s) to BSWHP so the information can be reviewed by the Medical Coverage Policy Committee (MCPC) and the Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) to determine if a modification of the policy is in order.

1. American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Ophthalmology, Council on Children with Disabilities; American Academy of Ophthalmology; American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus; American Association of Certified Orthoptists. Joint statement--Learning disabilities, dyslexia, and vision. *Pediatrics*. 2009 Aug;124(2):837-44.
2. Handler SM, Fierson WM, Section on Ophthalmology. Learning disabilities, dyslexia, and vision. *Pediatrics*. 2011 Mar;127(3):e818-56. PubMed PMID 21357342.
3. <http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/108>

Note: Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) products are offered through Scott and White Health Plan dba Baylor Scott & White Health Plan, and Scott & White Care Plans dba Baylor Scott & White Care Plan. Insured PPO and EPO products are offered through Baylor Scott & White Insurance Company. Scott and White Health Plan dba Baylor Scott & White Health Plan serves as a third-party administrator for self-funded employer-sponsored plans. Baylor Scott & White Care Plan and Baylor Scott & White Insurance Company are wholly owned subsidiaries of Scott and White Health Plan. These companies are referred to collectively in this document as Baylor Scott & White Health Plans.

RightCare STAR Medicaid plans are offered through Scott and White Health Plan in the Central Managed Care Service Area (MRSA) and STAR and CHIP plans are offered through SHA LLC dba FirstCare Health Plans (FirstCare) in the Lubbock and West MRSAs. Individual HMO plans are offered through FirstCare in West Texas.