

# Clinical Policy: Vitrectomy

Reference Number: CP.VP.64

Last Review Date: 01/2022

[Coding Implications](#)

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

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## Description

Vitrectomy is the surgical removal of the vitreous humor from the posterior segment of the eye. This policy describes the medical necessity requirements for vitrectomy.

## Policy/Criteria

- I. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation<sup>®</sup> (Centene) that vitrectomy is **medically necessary** for any of the following indications:
  - A. Vitreous opacities due to hemorrhage or strands
  - B. Vitreous membranes, retraction
  - C. Macular hole, impending hole due to epiretinal or vitreomacular traction
  - D. Tractional or rhegmatogenous retinal detachment
  - E. Proliferative retinopathy
  - F. Infectious endophthalmitis
  - G. Traumatic vitreous loss, either from surgery or injury
  - H. Dislocated intraocular lens or retained lens material
  
- II. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene that vitrectomy is **contraindicated** in the following conditions:
  - A. Suspected or diagnosed choroidal melanoma or retinoblastoma
  - B. Blind eye, when the procedure will not restore any functional vision
  - C. Concurrent use of warfarin is a relative contraindication, where avoidable
  - D. Benign vitreous opacifications of any kind not impacting visual function or retinal anatomy

## Background

Pars plana vitrectomy is a commonly employed technique in vitreoretinal surgery that enables access to the posterior segment for treating conditions such as retinal detachments, vitreous hemorrhage, endophthalmitis, and macular holes in a controlled, closed system. The procedure derives its name from the fact that vitreous is removed (i.e. vitreous + ectomy = removal of vitreous) and the instruments are introduced into the eye through the pars plana. In vitrectomy procedures (removing the vitreous humor), three small incisions are made in the eyeball, each about 4-mm from juncture of the cornea and sclera in the pars plana approach. One incision is for a light cannula, one for an infusion cannula, and one for the cutting or suction instruments. The provider extracts the vitreous, using a mechanical cutting and suctioning process that may involve a special instrument like a roto-extractor or vitreous infusion suction cutter (VICS). The cannulas are extracted, and the incisions repaired with layered closures. Injections may be required to re-establish intra-ocular pressure. A topical antibiotic or pressure patch may be applied. These procedures are generally performed with a retrobulbar injection rather than general anesthesia.

**CLINICAL POLICY**

**Vitrectomy**

The following complications may be seen intra-operatively or post-operatively with pars plana vitrectomy: cataract, glaucoma, endophthalmitis, retinal tear, retinal detachment, hypotony, suprachoroidal effusion, suprachoroidal hemorrhage, vitreous hemorrhage, cystoid macular edema, optic neuropathy, and phototoxicity.

**Coding Implications**

This clinical policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2018, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

| CPT® Codes | Description  |
|------------|--|
| 67036      | Vitrectomy, mechanical, pars plana approach  |
| 67039      | Vitrectomy, mechanical, pars plana approach; with focal endolaser photocoagulation   |
| 67040      | Vitrectomy, mechanical, pars plana approach; with endolaser panretinal photocoagulation  |
| 67041      | Vitrectomy, mechanical, pars plana approach; with removal of preretinal cellular membrane (e.g., macular pucker)   |
| 67042      | Vitrectomy, mechanical, pars plana approach; with removal of internal limiting membrane of retina (e.g., for repair of macular hole, diabetic macular edema), includes, if performed, intraocular tamponade (i.e., air, gas or silicone oil) |
| 67043      | Vitrectomy, mechanical, pars plana approach; with removal of subretinal membrane (e.g., choroidal neovascularization), includes, if performed, intraocular tamponade (i.e., air, gas or silicone oil) and laser photocoagulation             |

**ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes that Support Coverage Criteria**

+ Indicates a code requiring an additional character

| ICD-10-CM Code | Description  |
|----------------|--|
| E08.3511       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye                                    |
| E08.3512       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye                                     |
| E08.3513       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral                                    |
| E08.3521       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, right eye |
| E08.3522       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, left eye  |

**Vitrectomy**

| ICD-10-CM Code | Description  |
|----------------|--|
| E08.3523       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, bilateral                           |
| E08.3531       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, right eye                       |
| E08.3532       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, left eye                        |
| E08.3533       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, bilateral                       |
| E08.3541       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, right eye |
| E08.3542       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, left eye  |
| E08.3543       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, bilateral |
| E08.3551       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, right eye  |
| E08.3552       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, left eye   |
| E08.3553       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, bilateral  |
| E08.3591       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye   |
| E08.3592       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye  |
| E08.3593       | Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral   |
| E09.3511       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye   |
| E09.3512       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye  |
| E09.3513       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral   |
| E09.3521       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, right eye                              |
| E09.3522       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, left eye                               |
| E09.3523       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, bilateral                              |
| E09.3531       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, right eye                          |

**Vitrectomy**

| ICD-10-CM Code | Description   |
|----------------|---|
| E09.3532       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, left eye                        |
| E09.3533       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, bilateral                       |
| E09.3541       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, right eye |
| E09.3542       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, left eye  |
| E09.3543       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, bilateral |
| E09.3551       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, right eye  |
| E09.3552       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, left eye   |
| E09.3553       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, bilateral  |
| E09.3591       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye   |
| E09.3592       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye  |
| E09.3593       | Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral   |
| E10.3511       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye  |
| E10.3512       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye   |
| E10.3513       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral  |
| E10.3521       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, right eye   |
| E10.3522       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, left eye  |
| E10.3523       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, bilateral   |
| E10.3531       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, right eye   |
| E10.3532       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, left eye  |
| E10.3533       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, bilateral   |

**Vitrectomy**

| ICD-10-CM Code | Description   |
|----------------|---|
| E10.3541       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, right eye |
| E10.3542       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, left eye  |
| E10.3543       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, bilateral |
| E10.3551       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, right eye  |
| E10.3552       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, left eye   |
| E10.3553       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, bilateral  |
| E10.3591       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye   |
| E10.3592       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye  |
| E10.3593       | Type 1 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral   |
| E11.3511       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye  |
| E11.3512       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye   |
| E11.3513       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral  |
| E11.3521       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, right eye                           |
| E11.3522       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, left eye                            |
| E11.3523       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, bilateral                           |
| E11.3531       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, right eye                       |
| E11.3532       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, left eye                        |
| E11.3533       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, bilateral                       |
| E11.3541       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, right eye |
| E11.3542       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, left eye  |
| E11.3543       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, bilateral |
| E11.3551       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, right eye  |
| E11.3552       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, left eye   |
| E11.3553       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, bilateral  |

**Vitrectomy**

| ICD-10-CM Code | Description  |
|----------------|--|
| E11.3591       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye  |
| E11.3592       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye   |
| E11.3593       | Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral  |
| E13.3511       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, right eye  |
| E13.3512       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, left eye   |
| E13.3513       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema, bilateral  |
| E13.3521       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, right eye                           |
| E13.3522       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, left eye                            |
| E13.3523       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula, bilateral                           |
| E13.3531       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, right eye                       |
| E13.3532       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, left eye                        |
| E13.3533       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula, bilateral                       |
| E13.3541       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, right eye |
| E13.3542       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, left eye  |
| E13.3543       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, bilateral |
| E13.3551       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, right eye  |
| E13.3552       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, left eye   |
| E13.3553       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy, bilateral  |
| E13.3591       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, right eye   |
| E13.3592       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, left eye  |

**Vitreotomy**

| ICD-10-CM Code | Description  |
|----------------|--|
| E13.3593       | Other specified diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema, bilateral |
| H33.031        | Retinal detachment with giant retinal tear, right eye  |
| H33.032        | Retinal detachment with giant retinal tear, left eye   |
| H33.033        | Retinal detachment with giant retinal tear, bilateral  |
| H33.41         | Traction detachment of retina, right eye   |
| H33.42         | Traction detachment of retina, left eye  |
| H33.43         | Traction detachment of retina, bilateral   |
| H35.341        | Macular cyst, hole, or pseudohole, right eye   |
| H35.342        | Macular cyst, hole, or pseudohole, left eye  |
| H35.343        | Macular cyst, hole, or pseudohole, bilateral   |
| H35.371        | Puckering of macula, right eye   |
| H35.372        | Puckering of macula, left eye  |
| H35.373        | Puckering of macula, bilateral   |
| H35.461        | Secondary vitreoretinal degeneration, right eye  |
| H35.462        | Secondary vitreoretinal degeneration, left eye   |
| H35.463        | Secondary vitreoretinal degeneration, bilateral  |
| H35.50         | Unspecified hereditary retinal dystrophy   |
| H35.51         | Vitreoretinal dystrophy  |
| H43.11         | Vitreous hemorrhage, right eye   |
| H43.12         | Vitreous hemorrhage, left eye  |
| H43.13         | Vitreous hemorrhage, bilateral   |
| H43.21         | Crystalline deposits in vitreous body, right eye   |
| H43.22         | Crystalline deposits in vitreous body, left eye  |
| H43.23         | Crystalline deposits in vitreous body, bilateral   |
| H43.311        | Vitreous membranes and strands, right eye  |
| H43.312        | Vitreous membranes and strands, left eye   |
| H43.313        | Vitreous membranes and strands, bilateral  |
| H43.391        | Other vitreous opacities, right eye  |
| H43.392        | Other vitreous opacities, left eye   |
| H43.393        | Other vitreous opacities, bilateral  |
| H43.821        | Vitreomacular adhesion, right eye  |
| H43.822        | Vitreomacular adhesion, left eye   |
| H43.823        | Vitreomacular adhesion, bilateral  |
| H44.011        | Panophthalmitis (acute) right eye  |
| H44.012        | Panophthalmitis (acute) left eye   |
| H44.013        | Panophthalmitis (acute) bilateral  |
| H44.021        | Vitreous abscess (chronic) right eye   |
| H44.022        | Vitreous abscess (chronic) left eye  |
| H44.023        | Vitreous abscess (chronic) bilateral   |

**Vitrectomy**

| ICD-10-CM Code | Description  |
|----------------|--|
| H44.111        | Panuveitis, right eye  |
| H44.112        | Panuveitis, left eye   |
| H44.113        | Panuveitis, bilateral  |
| H44.121        | Parasitic endophthalmitis unspecified, right eye                           |
| H44.122        | Parasitic endophthalmitis unspecified, left eye                            |
| H44.123        | Parasitic endophthalmitis unspecified, bilateral                           |
| H44.751        | Retained (nonmagnetic) (old) foreign body in vitreous body, right eye      |
| H44.752        | Retained (nonmagnetic) (old) foreign body in vitreous body, left eye       |
| H44.753        | Retained (nonmagnetic) (old) foreign body in vitreous body, bilateral      |
| H59.021        | Cataract (lens) fragments in eye following cataract surgery, right eye     |
| H59.022        | Cataract (lens) fragments in eye following cataract surgery, left eye      |
| H59.023        | Cataract (lens) fragments in eye following cataract surgery, bilateral     |
| S05.51XA       | Penetrating wound with foreign body of right eyeball, initial encounter    |
| S05.51XD       | Penetrating wound with foreign body of right eyeball, subsequent encounter |
| S05.51XS       | Penetrating wound with foreign body of right eyeball, sequela              |
| S05.52XA       | Penetrating wound with foreign body of left eyeball, initial encounter     |
| S05.52XD       | Penetrating wound with foreign body of left eyeball, subsequent encounter  |
| S05.52XS       | Penetrating wound with foreign body of left eyeball, sequela               |
| T85.21XA       | Breakdown (mechanical) of intraocular lens, initial encounter              |
| T85.21XD       | Breakdown (mechanical) of intraocular lens, subsequent encounter           |
| T85.21XS       | Breakdown (mechanical) of intraocular lens, sequela                        |
| T85.22XA       | Displacement of intraocular lens, initial encounter                        |
| T85.22XD       | Displacement of intraocular lens, subsequent encounter                     |
| T85.22XS       | Displacement of intraocular lens, sequela                                  |
| T85.29XA       | Other mechanical complication of intraocular lens, initial encounter       |
| T85.29XD       | Other mechanical complication of intraocular lens, subsequent encounter    |
| T85.29XS       | Other mechanical complication of intraocular lens, sequela                 |

| Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals | Date    | Approval Date |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Annual Review                     | 12/2019 | 12/2019       |
| Converted to new template         | 07/2020 | 10/2020       |
| Annual Review                     | 12/2020 | 12/2020       |
| Annual Review                     | 12/2021 | 01/2022       |

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**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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**Note: For Medicaid members**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

**Note: For Medicare members**, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs, and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

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