

# Billing Guide for Punctal Occlusion

## General Information

- All punctal occlusion is billed the same, regardless if permanent silicone plugs or temporary synthetic/ collagen inserts are used.
- Allow at least 10 days (post-op period) following the insertion of collagen plugs before inserting permanent plugs.
- When occluding more than one punctum at the same time, the first procedure is allowed at 100% and each additional procedure is allowed at 50%.

## Documentation

In addition to proper coding, be sure the procedure is properly and sufficiently documented.

- Document the patient's dry eye complaint. Be sure to note the patient's pertinent history, symptoms and affect on daily activities.
- Document unsuccessful alternative treatments. This should include the use of artificial tear supplements with continued dry eye symptoms.
- Document examination and evaluation of tear production to confirm Dry Eye Syndrome. This may include ZoneQuick, Schirmer, Rose Bengal Staining, and/or Tear Break-Up Time tests. Some tests may not be separately billable.
- Document that you have clearly explained to the patient the potential risks and benefits of punctal occlusion.

## THE CODES TO KNOW

### Primary Diagnosis Codes

- H04.121** Dry Eye Syndrome of Right Lacrimal Gland
- H04.122** Dry Eye Syndrome of Left Lacrimal Gland
- H04.123** Dry Eye Syndrome of Bilateral Lacrimal Glands

### Secondary Diagnosis Codes

- H16.109** Unspecified superficial keratitis
- H16.229** Keratoconjunctivitis sicca
- H57.8** Redness or discharge
- M35.01** Keratoconjunctivitis sicca associated with Sjögren's disease

### CPT Procedure Code

- 68761** Closure of the lacrimal punctum by plug, each

### Supply Code

**A4263** (HCPCS) or **99070**

Medicare combines the office visit, procedure and supply of collagen/silicone plugs, thus they are not billed separately. Some private insurance may accept a separate supply code.

### Punctum Identification

- E1** Upper lid, left
- E2** Lower lid, left
- E3** Upper lid, right
- E4** Lower lid, right

### Modifiers

- 25** Separately identifiable service by the same doctor on the same day
- 50** Bilateral procedure
- 51** Multiple procedures

## Sample Medicare & Private Insurance Claim Form

21. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY. (RELATE ITEMS 1,2,3 OR 4 TO ITEM 24E BY IDC INCL. )											22. RESUBMISSION CODE		ORIGINAL REF. NO.				
A. _____			B. _____			C. _____			D. _____		23. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER						
E. _____			F. _____			G. _____			H. _____								
I. _____			J. _____			K. _____			L. _____								
DATE(S) OF SERVICE						B	C	D. PROCEDURES, SERVICES, OR SUPPLIES			E.	F.	G.	H.	I.	J.	
MM DD YY MM DD YY						Place of Service	Type of Service	(Explain Unusual Circumstances) CPT/HCPCS MODIFIER			DIAGNOSIS POINTER	\$ CHARGES	DAYS OR UNITS	EPSDT Family Plan	ID. QUAL.	RENDERING PROVIDER ID#	
1	10	1	17	10	1	17			68761	51	E1	1	\$xxx:xx	1		NPI	
2	10	1	17	10	1	17			68761	51	E2	1	\$xxx:xx	1		NPI	
3	10	1	17	10	1	17			68761	51	E3	1	\$xxx:xx	1		NPI	
4	10	1	17	10	1	17			68761	51	E4	1	\$xxx:xx	1		NPI	

The information in this guide is believed to be accurate but is not intended to serve as an authority or to comprehensively address proper billing procedures. Always refer to official documentation provided by Medicare and/or private insurance carriers.