Blepharoplasty and Repair of Blepharoptosis

I. Policy

University Health Alliance (UHA) will reimburse for blepharoplasty and repair of blepharoptosis when they are determined to be medically necessary and when they meet the medical criteria guidelines (subject to limitations and exclusions) indicated below.

II. Criteria/Guidelines

A. Blepharoplasty and repair of blepharoptosis will be covered (subject to Limitations/Exclusions and Administrative Guidelines) when submitted documentation sufficiently supports that surgery is medically necessary and will be performed for reconstructive/functional purposes for any of the following indications:

1. Correction of visual impairment with near or far vision due to dermatochalasis, blepharochalasis or blepharoptosis; or
2. Correction of symptomatic redundant skin weighing down on the upper lashes; or
3. Correction of chronic symptomatic dermatitis of pretarsal skin caused by redundant upper lid skin; or
4. Prosthesis difficulties in an anophthalmia socket; or
5. Correction of lid retraction when the patient is unable to close the eyelids fully, leading to dryness of the eye or corneal exposure; or
6. Correction of lower eyelid blepharoptosis in the presence of massive lower eyelid edema secondary to systemic corticosteroid therapy, myxedema, Graves disease, nephrotic syndrome or a number of other metabolic or inflammatory disorders. The excessive eyelid bulk, even after satisfactory treatment of the underlying systemic disease, may preclude proper positioning of eyeglasses; or
7. Correction of lower eyelid blepharoptosis may also be required in cases of epiblepharon or entropion in which an extra roll of pretarsal skin and orbicularis muscle deflects the eyelashes against the cornea causing corneal irritation or erosion.

B. Visual fields demonstrate a minimum 12 degree or 30 percent loss of upper field of vision with upper lid skin and/or upper lid margin in repose and elevated (by taping the lid) to demonstrate potential correction by the proposed procedure or procedures. Visual fields are not required when blepharoplasty is for the following conditions:

1. Toxic diffuse goiter; or
2. Entropian and trichiasis of eyelid; or
3. Congenital deformities of eyelid; or
4. Artificial eye.

C. Photographs must demonstrate one or more of the following conditions

1. The upper eyelid margin approaches to within 2.5 mm (1/4 of the diameter of the visible iris) of the corneal light reflex; or
2. The upper eyelid skin rests on the eyelashes; or
3. The upper eyelid indicates the presence of dermatitis; or
4. The upper eyelid position contributes to difficulty tolerating prosthesis in an anophthalmia socket.

D. **NOTE:**

This UHA payment policy is a guide to coverage, the need for prior authorization and other administrative directives. It is not meant to provide instruction in the practice of medicine and it should not deter a provider from expressing his/her judgment.

Even though this payment policy may indicate that a particular service or supply is considered covered, specific provider contract terms and/or member individual benefit plans may apply, and this policy is not a guarantee of payment. UHA reserves the right to apply this payment policy to all UHA companies and subsidiaries.

UHA understands that opinions about and approaches to clinical problems may vary. Questions concerning medical necessity (see Hawaii Revised Statutes §432E-1.4) are welcome. A provider may request that UHA reconsider the application of the medical necessity criteria in light of any supporting documentation.

### III. Limitations/Exclusions

A. Use of this procedure for any diagnosis other than those listed above will not meet payment determination criteria and will be denied.

B. Payment will not be made for ptosis repairs performed for cosmetic reasons.

### IV. Administrative Guidelines

A. Prior Authorization is required.

B. To request prior authorization, please go to UHA’s website:
   http://www.uhahealth.com/forms/form_request_auth.pdf and submit it
   
   **Via Fax:** 1-866-572-4384
   
   **Via Mail:**
   UHA Health Care Services
   700 Bishop Street, Suite 300
   Honolulu, HI 96813

C. All of the following documentation must be submitted with the prior authorization request:

1. Results of the visual field tests;
2. Patient complaints of interference with vision or visual field, difficulty reading due to upper eyelid drooping, looking through the eyelashes or seeing the upper eyelid skin or chronic blepharitis;
3. Photographs demonstrating one or more of the following conditions:
   a. The upper eyelid margin approaches to within 2.5 mm (1/4 of the diameter of the visible iris) of the corneal light reflex; or
   b. The upper eyelid skin rests on the eyelashes; or
   c. The upper eyelid indicates the presence of dermatitis; or
   d. The upper eyelid position contributes to difficulty tolerating a prosthesis in an anophthalmia socket.
D. This policy may apply to the following codes. Inclusion of a code in the table below does not guarantee that it will be reimbursed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT Codes</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15822</td>
<td>Blepharoplasty, upper eyelid;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15823</td>
<td>with excessive skin weighing down lid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67900</td>
<td>Repair of brow ptosis (supraciliary, mid-forehead or coronal approach)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67901</td>
<td>Repair of blepharoptosis; frontalis muscle technique with suture or other material (e.g., banked fascia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>67902</td>
<td>frontalis muscle technique with autologous fascial sling (includes obtaining fascia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67903</td>
<td>(tarso) levator resection or advancement, internal approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67904</td>
<td>(tarso) levator resection or advancement, external approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67906</td>
<td>superior rectus technique with fascial sling (includes obtaining fascia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67908</td>
<td>conjunctivo-tarso-Muller's muscle-levator resection (e.g., Fasanella-Servat type)</td>
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</tbody>
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V. Policy History

Policy Number: M.SUR.01.120101
Current Effective Date: 01/01/2012
Original Document Effective Date: 01/01/2012
Previous Revision Dates: None