

# Clinical Policy: Vitrectomy

Reference Number: CP.VP.64

Last Review Date: 12/2020

[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.

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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	01/2021

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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

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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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