



MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINES
SECTION: VISION

ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 05/13/14
LAST REVIEW DATE:
LAST CRITERIA REVISION DATE:
ARCHIVE DATE:

DRUG-ELUTING PUNCTUM PLUGS

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member's specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

The section identified as "Description" defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as "Criteria" defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

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Description:

Drug-eluting punctum plugs can be placed within the canalivula to deliver precise drug doses for a predetermined period of time. These bioabsorbable plugs have been investigated for use after cataract surgery and for the treatment of conjunctivitis or glaucoma.

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DRUG-ELUTING PUNCTUM PLUGS (cont.)

Criteria:

- Drug-eluting punctum plugs are considered ***experimental or investigational*** based upon:
1. Lack of final approval from the Food and Drug Administration, and
 2. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
 3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
 4. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives, and
 5. Insufficient evidence to support improvement outside the investigational setting.

Drug-eluting punctum plugs include, *but are not limited to*:

- Dexamethasone Punctum Plug (OTX-DP)
- Moxifloxacin Punctum Plug (OTX-MP)
- Travoprost Punctum Plug (OTX-TP)

Resources:

1. Chee SP. Moxifloxacin punctum plug for sustained drug delivery. *J Ocul Pharmacol Ther.* Aug 2012;28(4):340-349.