



## NHS MEDICAL POLICY

### Pterygium Excision Procedure 2015-001

A pterygium is a triangular wedge of fibrovascular conjunctival tissue that typically starts medially on the nasal conjunctiva and extends laterally onto the cornea. Pterygium Excision may be indicated when ONE of the following is present:

1	The provider has documented opacity in the visual axis with the pterygium measured 1 mm or more onto the cornea.
2	<p>The provider has documented ALL the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artificial tears eye drops, or another ocular lubricant has been tried and failed.</li> <li>• Treatment with a second line topical agent (e.g., topical decongestants, NSAIDs or glucocorticoids) has been tried and has failed. OR the provider has documented that this type of medical treatment is not tolerated or is contraindicated.</li> <li>• The procedure is not being considered solely for cosmetic reasons.</li> <li>• One of these indications for surgical excision of the pterygium is present:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Intractable irritation or pain</li> <li>✓ Induced astigmatism causing visual impairment.</li> <li>✓ Restriction of eye movement</li> <li>✓ Documented growth threatens to affect the visual axis via astigmatism or opacity.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### SOURCES

1. UpToDate.com was accessed Jan 20, 2018: Pterygium
2. Hirst LW. The treatment of pterygium. Surv Ophthalmol 2003; 48:145.
3. Fong KS, et al, Refractive change following pterygium surgery. CLAO J 1998; 24:115.
4. Frucht-Pery J, et al. Topical indomethacin solution versus dexamethasone solution for treatment of inflamed pterygium and pinguecula: a prospective randomized clinical study. Am J Ophthalmol 1999; 127:148.
5. Frucht-Pery J, et al. Treatment of inflamed pterygium and pinguecula with topical indomethacin 0.1% solution. Cornea 1997; 16:42.

**CODE REFERENCE (This may not be a comprehensive list of codes to apply to this policy.)**

65420 Excision or transposition of pterygium without graft  
65426 Excision or transposition of pterygium with graft  
65780 Ocular surface reconstruction; amniotic membrane transplantation  
65782 Limbal conjunctival autograft (includes obtaining graft).  
65426 Excision or transposition of pterygium; with graft  
V2790 Amniotic membrane for surgical reconstruction, per procedure

**POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION**

Date	Action/Description
03/20/2015	Annual review – no changes
12/16/2015	Annual review – no changes
01/28/2016	CPT codes updated
02/26/2016	CPT codes updated
12/14/2016	Annual review – no changes
12/13/2017	Annual review – no changes
03/14/2018	Reconsolidated Items 1-4 into Item 1 - 2
03/13/2019	Code Reference added: V2790 Amniotic membrane for surgical reconstruction, per procedure
03/12/2020	Annual review – no changes
03/12/2021	Annual review – no changes
03/28/2022	Annual review – no changes
02/23/2023	Annual review – no changes
02/20/2024	Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee
03/24/2025	Annual review and approval by UM/QM Committee