

# Medical Policy

<b>Policy:</b>	<b>201946</b>	<b>Initial Effective Date:</b>	02/12/2020
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Corneal Cross Linking</b>	<b>Annual Review Date:</b>	02/12/2020
		<b>Last Revised Date:</b>	02/12/2020

**Prior approval is required for some or all procedure codes listed in this Corporate Medical Policy.**

**Definition:** Corneal Collagen Cross-Linking procedure is a minimally invasive procedure used to strengthen the cornea. The procedure uses ultraviolet A combined with riboflavin eye drops to strengthen the cornea by adding new bonds between collagen fibers.

**Medical Necessity:** The Company considers epithelium-off photochemical collagen cross-linkage using riboflavin (Photrex) and ultraviolet A for keratoconus **medically necessary** and eligible for reimbursement when all of the following medical criteria are met:

- Confirmed diagnosis of keratoconus based on keratometry and corneal mapping; and
- Diagnosis of progressive keratoconus defined as one or more of the following over 24 consecutive months:
  - increase of  $\geq 1.00$  diopters (D) in the steepest keratometry measurements; or
  - increase of  $\geq 1.00$  D in manifest cylinder; or
  - increase of 0.50 D in manifest refraction spherical equivalent (MRSE);
- Age 14 years or older; and
- Corneal thickness 400 microns or more; and
- Deterioration of uncorrected (UDVA) and/or corrected (CDVA)  $> 1$  Snellen line over 24 consecutive months; and
- No medical history of corneal disease or poor or delayed epithelial wound healing.

The company considers epithelium-off photochemical collagen cross-linkage using riboflavin (Photrex) and ultraviolet A **medically necessary** and eligible for reimbursement as a treatment for corneal ectasia resulting from refractive surgery when all of the following conditions are met:

- Axial topography consistent with corneal ectasia
- Age 14 years of age or older; and
- Corrected distance visual acuity (CDVA) worse than 20/20; and
- Corneal thickness 400 microns or more; and
- No medical history of corneal disease or poor or delayed epithelial wound healing.

The Company considers photochemical collagen cross-linkage for all other clinical conditions and indications **not medically necessary** and **not** eligible for reimbursement.

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The Company considers transepithelial collagen cross-linkage **not medically necessary** and **not** eligible for reimbursement for keratoconus, keratectasia, and all other indications.

## **Documentation Requirements:**

The Company reserves the right to request additional documentation as part of its coverage determination process. The Company may deny reimbursement when it has determined that the services performed were not medically necessary, investigational or experimental, not within the scope of benefits afforded to the member, and/or a pattern of billing or other practice has been found to be either inappropriate or excessive. Additional documentation supporting medical necessity for the services provided must be made available upon request to the Company. Documentation requested may include patient records, test results, and/or credentials of the provider ordering or performing a service. The Company also reserves the right to modify, revise, change, apply, and interpret this policy at its sole discretion, and the exercise of this discretion shall be final and binding.

**NOTE: After reviewing the relevant documentation, the Company reserves the right to apply this policy to the procedure performed regardless of how the procedure was coded by the Provider.**

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## Sources of Information:

- Galvis V, Tello A, Ortiz AI, Escaf LC. Patient selection for corneal collagen cross-linking: an updated review. *Clin Ophthalmol*. 2017;11:657–668. Published 2017 Apr 7. doi:10.2147/OPHTH.S101386
- Poli M, Lefevre A, Auxenfans C, Burillon C. Corneal collagen cross-linking for the treatment of progressive corneal ectasia: 6-year prospective outcome in a French population. *Am J Ophthalmol*. 2015;160(4):654.e1–662.e1.
- Raiskup-Wolf F, Hoyer A, Spoerl E, Pillunat LE. Collagen crosslinking with riboflavin and ultraviolet-A light in keratoconus: long-term results. *J Cataract Refract Surg*. 2008;34(5):796–801.
- Wittig-Silva C, Whiting M, Lamoureux E, Lindsay RG, Sullivan LJ, Snibson GR. A randomized controlled trial of corneal collagen cross-linking in progressive keratoconus: preliminary results. *J Refract Surg*. 2008;24(7):S720–S725.
- Wittig-Silva C et al. A Randomized, Controlled Trial of Corneal Collagen Cross-linking in Progressive Keratoconus: Three-Year Results. *Ophthalmology*. 2014. Volume 121 (4); 812-821.
- Wollensak G, Spoerl E, Seiler T. Riboflavin/ultraviolet-a-induced collagen crosslinking for the treatment of keratoconus. *Am J Ophthalmol*. 2003 May;135(5):620-7.

<b>Applicable Code(s):</b>	
<b>CPT:</b>	<b>0402T</b>
<b>HCPCS:</b>	<b>J2787</b>
<b>ICD10 Procedure Codes:</b>	<b>H18.601-H18.629; H18.711-H18.719</b>