



CLINICAL MEDICAL POLICY	
Policy Name:	Cataract Extraction (including Complex Cataract Surgery) (L35091)
Policy Number:	MP-001-MC-PA
Responsible Department(s):	Medical Management
Provider Notice/Issue Date:	03/01/2025; 05/01/2024; 03/01/2023; 04/01/2022; 03/19/2021; 03/16/2020; 07/15/2019; 07/15/2018
Effective Date:	04/01/2025; 06/01/2024; 04/01/2023; 05/01/2022; 04/19/2021; 04/13/2020; 07/15/2019; 07/15/2018
Next Annual Review:	02/2026
Revision Date:	02/19/2025; 02/21/2024; 02/15/2023; 02/16/2022; 02/17/2021; 02/19/2020; 05/15/2019; 04/18/2018
Products:	Pennsylvania Medicare Assured
Application:	All participating and nonparticipating practitioners and facilities unless contractually precluded
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Policy History

Date	Activity
04/01/2025	Provider Effective date
02/19/2025	QI/UM Committee review
02/19/2025	Annual Review: No changes to clinical criteria. Updated 'Reference Sources' section.
06/01/2024	Provider Effective date
02/21/2024	QI/UM Committee review
02/21/2024	Annual Review: No changes to clinical criteria. Updated CMS hyperlinks and 'Reference Sources' sections.
04/01/2023	Provider Effective date
02/15/2023	QI/UM Committee review
02/15/2023	Annual Review: No changes to clinical criteria. Updated CMS hyperlinks and 'Reference Sources'.
05/01/2022	Provider Effective date
02/16/2022	QI/UM Committee review
02/16/2022	Annual Review: Updated CMS hyperlinks and Reference Sources section. Updated the code descriptions for the following Group 1 CPT codes: 66840, 66850, 66852, 66920, 66940, 66983, & 66984. Added CPT code 66988 to Group 1. Added CPT codes 66982 & 66987 to Group 2. Added the following ICD-10 codes to Group 1: E08.36, E09.36, E10.36, E11.36, E13.36, H20.21, H20.22, H20.23, H25.011, H25.012, H25.013,

	H25.031, H25.032, H25.033, H25.041, H25.042, H25.043, H25.091, H25.092, H25.093, H25.11, H25.12, H25.13, H25.21, H25.22, H25.23, H25.811, H25.812, H25.813, H25.89, H26.001, H26.002, H26.003, H26.011, H26.012, H26.013, H26.031, H26.032, H26.033, H26.041, H26.042, H26.043, H26.051, H26.052, H26.053, H26.061, H26.062, H26.063, H26.09, H26.101, H26.102, H26.103, H26.111, H26.112, H26.113, H26.121, H26.122, H26.123, H26.131, H26.132, H26.133, H26.211, H26.212, H26.213, H26.221, H26.222, H26.223, H26.231, H26.232, H26.233, H26.31, H26.32, H26.33, H26.411, H26.412, H26.413, H26.491, H26.492, H26.493, H26.8, H27.111, H27.112, H27.113, H27.121, H27.122, H27.123, H27.131, H27.132, H27.133, H28, H40.51X1, H40.51X2, H40.51X3, H40.51X4, H40.52X1, H40.52X2, H40.52X3, H40.52X4, H40.53X1, H40.53X2, H40.53X3, H40.53X4, H40.89, H59.021, H59.022, & H59.023. Added the following ICD-10 codes to Group 2: E08.36, E09.36, E10.36, E11.36, E13.36, H20.21, H20.22, H20.23, H21.221, H21.222, H21.223, H21.261, H21.262, H21.263, H21.271, H21.272, H21.273, H21.29, H21.531, H21.532, H21.533, H21.561, H21.562, H21.563, H21.81, H21.89, H22, H25.011, H25.012, H25.013, H25.031, H25.032, H25.033, H25.041, H25.042, H25.043, H25.11, H25.12, H25.13, H25.21, H25.22, H25.23, H25.811, H25.812, H25.813, H25.89, H26.001, H26.002, H26.003, H26.011, H26.012, H26.013, H26.031, H26.032, H26.033, H26.041, H26.042, H26.043, H26.051, H26.052, H26.053, H26.061, H26.062, H26.063, H26.09, H26.101, H26.102, H26.103, H26.121, H26.122, H26.123, H26.131, H26.132, H26.133, H26.20, H26.211, H26.212, H26.213, H26.221, H26.222, H26.223, H26.31, H26.32, H26.33, H26.8, H27.111, H27.112, H27.113, H27.121, H27.122, H27.123, H27.131, H27.132, H27.133, H28, H40.51X1, H40.51X2, H40.51X3, H40.51X4, H40.52X1, H40.52X2, H40.52X3, H40.52X4, H40.53X1, H40.53X2, H40.53X3, H40.53X4, H40.89, H57.09, Q12.1, Q12.2, Q12.4, Q12.8, Q13.0, Q13.1, & Q13.2.
03/17/2016	Initial reimbursement policy developed

Disclaimer

Highmark WholecareSM medical policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

Policy Statement

Highmark WholecareSM may provide coverage under the medical-surgical benefits of the Company's Medicare products for medically necessary cataract extraction including complex cataract surgery.

This policy is designed to address medical necessity guidelines that are appropriate for the majority of individuals with a particular disease, illness or condition. Each person's unique clinical circumstances warrant individual consideration, based upon review of applicable medical records.

Procedures

1. Please review the specific National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), and/or Local Coverage Article (LCA) information, as well as other CMS sources, using the links below.
2. Post-payment Audit Statement
The medical record must include documentation that reflects the medical necessity criteria and is subject to audit by Highmark WholecareSM at any time pursuant to the terms of your provider agreement.
3. Place of Service
Please refer to the NCD, LCD, LCA or CMS guidelines for the place of service for cataract extraction.

Coverage Determination and Links

Highmark WholecareSM follows the coverage determinations made by CMS as outlined in the NCD, LCD, and/or LCA.

CMS Link

- [CMS Website](#)

NCD/LCD Links

- There are no current NCDs related to this topic.
 - Related NCD: [NCD: Intraocular Lenses \(IOLs\) \(80.12\)](#)
- [LCD: Cataract Extraction \(including Complex Cataract Surgery\) \(L35091\)](#)

Article Link

- [LCA: Billing and Coding: Cataract Extraction \(including Complex Cataract Surgery\) \(A56615\)](#)

Reference Sources

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). National Coverage Determination (NCD) Intraocular Lenses (IOLs) (80.12). Effective date May 19, 1997. Accessed on January 21, 2025.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Local Coverage Determination (LCD) Cataract Extraction (including Complex Cataract Surgery) (L35091). Original Effective Date October 1, 2019. Revision Effective date July 11, 2021. Accessed on January 21, 2025.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Local Coverage Article (LCA) Billing and Coding: Cataract Extraction (including Complex Cataract Surgery) (A56615). Original Effective date June 13, 2019. Revision Effective date July 11, 2021. Accessed January 21, 2025.

Coding Requirements

Procedure Codes

Group 1

CPT Code	Description
66840	Removal of lens material; aspiration technique, 1 or more stages
66850	Removal of lens material; phacofragmentation technique (mechanical or ultrasonic) (eg, phacoemulsification), with aspiration
66852	Removal of lens material; pars plana approach, with or without vitrectomy
66920	Extraction of lens; intracapsular
66940	Extraction of lens; intracapsular, for dislocated lens
66983	Intracapsular cataract extraction with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1 stage procedure)
66984	Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1 stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification); without endoscopic cyclophotocoagulation
66988	Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1 stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification); with endoscopic cyclophotocoagulation

Group 2

CPT Code	Description
66982	Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1-stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification), complex, requiring devices or techniques not generally used in routine cataract surgery (eg, iris expansion device, suture support for intraocular lens, or primary posterior capsulorrhexis) or performed on patients in the amblyogenic developmental stage; without endoscopic cyclophotocoagulation
66987	Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1-stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification), complex, requiring devices or techniques not generally used in routine cataract surgery (eg, iris expansion device, suture support for intraocular lens, or primary posterior capsulorrhexis) or performed on patients in the amblyogenic developmental stage; with endoscopic cyclophotocoagulation

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

Group 1

The following ICD-10-CM codes support medical necessity and provide coverage for CPT codes **66840, 66850, 66852, 66920, 66940, 66983, 66984** and **66988**:

ICD-10 Code	Description
E08.36	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with diabetic cataract
E09.36	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with diabetic cataract
E10.36	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with diabetic cataract
E11.36	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic cataract

E13.36	Other specified diabetes mellitus with diabetic cataract
H20.21	Lens-induced iridocyclitis, right eye
H20.22	Lens-induced iridocyclitis, left eye
H20.23	Lens-induced iridocyclitis, bilateral
H25.011	Cortical age-related cataract, right eye
H25.012	Cortical age-related cataract, left eye
H25.013	Cortical age-related cataract, bilateral
H25.031	Anterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, right eye
H25.032	Anterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, left eye
H25.033	Anterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, bilateral
H25.041	Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, right eye
H25.042	Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, left eye
H25.043	Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, bilateral
H25.091	Other age-related incipient cataract, right eye
H25.092	Other age-related incipient cataract, left eye
H25.093	Other age-related incipient cataract, bilateral
H25.11	Age-related nuclear cataract, right eye
H25.12	Age-related nuclear cataract, left eye
H25.13	Age-related nuclear cataract, bilateral
H25.21	Age-related cataract, morgagnian type, right eye
H25.22	Age-related cataract, morgagnian type, left eye
H25.23	Age-related cataract, morgagnian type, bilateral
H25.811	Combined forms of age-related cataract, right eye
H25.812	Combined forms of age-related cataract, left eye
H25.813	Combined forms of age-related cataract, bilateral
H25.89	Other age-related cataract
H26.001	Unspecified infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
H26.002	Unspecified infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye
H26.003	Unspecified infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral
H26.011	Infantile and juvenile cortical, lamellar, or zonular cataract, right eye
H26.012	Infantile and juvenile cortical, lamellar, or zonular cataract, left eye
H26.013	Infantile and juvenile cortical, lamellar, or zonular cataract, bilateral
H26.031	Infantile and juvenile nuclear cataract, right eye
H26.032	Infantile and juvenile nuclear cataract, left eye
H26.033	Infantile and juvenile nuclear cataract, bilateral
H26.041	Anterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
H26.042	Anterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye
H26.043	Anterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral
H26.051	Posterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
H26.052	Posterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye
H26.053	Posterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral
H26.061	Combined forms of infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
H26.062	Combined forms of infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye
H26.063	Combined forms of infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral

H26.09	Other infantile and juvenile cataract
H26.101	Unspecified traumatic cataract, right eye
H26.102	Unspecified traumatic cataract, left eye
H26.103	Unspecified traumatic cataract, bilateral
H26.111	Localized traumatic opacities, right eye
H26.112	Localized traumatic opacities, left eye
H26.113	Localized traumatic opacities, bilateral
H26.121	Partially resolved traumatic cataract, right eye
H26.122	Partially resolved traumatic cataract, left eye
H26.123	Partially resolved traumatic cataract, bilateral
H26.131	Total traumatic cataract, right eye
H26.132	Total traumatic cataract, left eye
H26.133	Total traumatic cataract, bilateral
H26.211	Cataract with neovascularization, right eye
H26.212	Cataract with neovascularization, left eye
H26.213	Cataract with neovascularization, bilateral
H26.221	Cataract secondary to ocular disorders (degenerative) (inflammatory), right eye
H26.222	Cataract secondary to ocular disorders (degenerative) (inflammatory), left eye
H26.223	Cataract secondary to ocular disorders (degenerative) (inflammatory), bilateral
H26.231	Glaucomatous flecks (subcapsular), right eye
H26.232	Glaucomatous flecks (subcapsular), left eye
H26.233	Glaucomatous flecks (subcapsular), bilateral
H26.31	Drug-induced cataract, right eye
H26.32	Drug-induced cataract, left eye
H26.33	Drug-induced cataract, bilateral
H26.411	Soemmering's ring, right eye
H26.412	Soemmering's ring, left eye
H26.413	Soemmering's ring, bilateral
H26.491	Other secondary cataract, right eye
H26.492	Other secondary cataract, left eye
H26.493	Other secondary cataract, bilateral
H26.8	Other specified cataract
H27.111	Subluxation of lens, right eye
H27.112	Subluxation of lens, left eye
H27.113	Subluxation of lens, bilateral
H27.121	Anterior dislocation of lens, right eye
H27.122	Anterior dislocation of lens, left eye
H27.123	Anterior dislocation of lens, bilateral
H27.131	Posterior dislocation of lens, right eye
H27.132	Posterior dislocation of lens, left eye
H27.133	Posterior dislocation of lens, bilateral
H28**	Cataract in diseases classified elsewhere
H40.51X1	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, right eye, mild stage
H40.51X2	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, right eye, moderate stage

H40.51X3	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, right eye, severe stage
H40.51X4	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, right eye, indeterminate stage
H40.52X1	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, left eye, mild stage
H40.52X2	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, left eye, moderate stage
H40.52X3	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, left eye, severe stage
H40.52X4	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, left eye, indeterminate stage
H40.53X1	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, bilateral, mild stage
H40.53X2	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, bilateral, moderate stage
H40.53X3	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, bilateral, severe stage
H40.53X4	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, bilateral, indeterminate stage
H40.89*	Other specified glaucoma
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

***Note:** When reporting ICD-10 code H40.89, one of the following codes must also be reported: H25.21, H25.22 or H25.23.

****Note:** When reporting ICD-10 code H28, the underlying disease (e.g., hypoparathyroidism, myotonia, myxedema, protein-calorie malnutrition) should be reported as the primary diagnosis.

Group 2

The following ICD-10-CM codes support medical necessity and provide coverage for CPT codes **66982** and **66987**:

ICD-10 Code	Description
E08.36	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with diabetic cataract
E09.36	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with diabetic cataract
E10.36	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with diabetic cataract
E11.36	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic cataract
E13.36	Other specified diabetes mellitus with diabetic cataract
H20.21	Lens-induced iridocyclitis, right eye
H20.22	Lens-induced iridocyclitis, left eye
H20.23	Lens-induced iridocyclitis, bilateral
H21.221	Degeneration of ciliary body, right eye
H21.222	Degeneration of ciliary body, left eye
H21.223	Degeneration of ciliary body, bilateral
H21.261	Iris atrophy (essential) (progressive), right eye
H21.262	Iris atrophy (essential) (progressive), left eye
H21.263	Iris atrophy (essential) (progressive), bilateral
H21.271	Miotic pupillary cyst, right eye
H21.272	Miotic pupillary cyst, left eye
H21.273	Miotic pupillary cyst, bilateral
H21.29	Other iris atrophy
H21.531	Iridodialysis, right eye

H21.532	Iridodialysis, left eye
H21.533	Iridodialysis, bilateral
H21.561	Pupillary abnormality, right eye
H21.562	Pupillary abnormality, left eye
H21.563	Pupillary abnormality, bilateral
H21.81	Floppy iris syndrome
H21.89	Other specified disorders of iris and ciliary body
H22	Disorders of iris and ciliary body in diseases classified elsewhere
H25.011	Cortical age-related cataract, right eye
H25.012	Cortical age-related cataract, left eye
H25.013	Cortical age-related cataract, bilateral
H25.031	Anterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, right eye
H25.032	Anterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, left eye
H25.033	Anterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, bilateral
H25.041	Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, right eye
H25.042	Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, left eye
H25.043	Posterior subcapsular polar age-related cataract, bilateral
H25.11	Age-related nuclear cataract, right eye
H25.12	Age-related nuclear cataract, left eye
H25.13	Age-related nuclear cataract, bilateral
H25.21	Age-related cataract, morgagnian type, right eye
H25.22	Age-related cataract, morgagnian type, left eye
H25.23	Age-related cataract, morgagnian type, bilateral
H25.811	Combined forms of age-related cataract, right eye
H25.812	Combined forms of age-related cataract, left eye
H25.813	Combined forms of age-related cataract, bilateral
H25.89	Other age-related cataract
H26.001	Unspecified infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
H26.002	Unspecified infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye
H26.003	Unspecified infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral
H26.011	Infantile and juvenile cortical, lamellar, or zonular cataract, right eye
H26.012	Infantile and juvenile cortical, lamellar, or zonular cataract, left eye
H26.013	Infantile and juvenile cortical, lamellar, or zonular cataract, bilateral
H26.031	Infantile and juvenile nuclear cataract, right eye
H26.032	Infantile and juvenile nuclear cataract, left eye
H26.033	Infantile and juvenile nuclear cataract, bilateral
H26.041	Anterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
H26.042	Anterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye
H26.043	Anterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral
H26.051	Posterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
H26.052	Posterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye
H26.053	Posterior subcapsular polar infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral
H26.061	Combined forms of infantile and juvenile cataract, right eye
H26.062	Combined forms of infantile and juvenile cataract, left eye

H26.063	Combined forms of infantile and juvenile cataract, bilateral
H26.09	Other infantile and juvenile cataract
H26.101	Unspecified traumatic cataract, right eye
H26.102	Unspecified traumatic cataract, left eye
H26.103	Unspecified traumatic cataract, bilateral
H26.121	Partially resolved traumatic cataract, right eye
H26.122	Partially resolved traumatic cataract, left eye
H26.123	Partially resolved traumatic cataract, bilateral
H26.131	Total traumatic cataract, right eye
H26.132	Total traumatic cataract, left eye
H26.133	Total traumatic cataract, bilateral
H26.20	Unspecified complicated cataract
H26.211	Cataract with neovascularization, right eye
H26.212	Cataract with neovascularization, left eye
H26.213	Cataract with neovascularization, bilateral
H26.221	Cataract secondary to ocular disorders (degenerative) (inflammatory), right eye
H26.222	Cataract secondary to ocular disorders (degenerative) (inflammatory), left eye
H26.223	Cataract secondary to ocular disorders (degenerative) (inflammatory), bilateral
H26.31	Drug-induced cataract, right eye
H26.32	Drug-induced cataract, left eye
H26.33	Drug-induced cataract, bilateral
H26.8	Other specified cataract
H27.111	Subluxation of lens, right eye
H27.112	Subluxation of lens, left eye
H27.113	Subluxation of lens, bilateral
H27.121	Anterior dislocation of lens, right eye
H27.122	Anterior dislocation of lens, left eye
H27.123	Anterior dislocation of lens, bilateral
H27.131	Posterior dislocation of lens, right eye
H27.132	Posterior dislocation of lens, left eye
H27.133	Posterior dislocation of lens, bilateral
H28**	Cataract in diseases classified elsewhere
H40.51X1	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, right eye, mild stage
H40.51X2	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, right eye, moderate stage
H40.51X3	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, right eye, severe stage
H40.51X4	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, right eye, indeterminate stage
H40.52X1	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, left eye, mild stage
H40.52X2	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, left eye, moderate stage
H40.52X3	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, left eye, severe stage
H40.52X4	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, left eye, indeterminate stage
H40.53X1	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, bilateral, mild stage
H40.53X2	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, bilateral, moderate stage
H40.53X3	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, bilateral, severe stage
H40.53X4	Glaucoma secondary to other eye disorders, bilateral, indeterminate stage

H40.89*	Other specified glaucoma
H57.09	Other anomalies of pupillary function
Q12.1	Congenital displaced lens
Q12.2	Coloboma of lens
Q12.4	Spherophakia
Q12.8	Other congenital lens malformations
Q13.0	Coloboma of iris
Q13.1	Absence of iris
Q13.2	Other congenital malformations of iris

***Note:** When reporting ICD-10 code H40.89, one of the following codes must also be reported: H25.21, H25.22 or H25.23.

****Note:** When reporting ICD-10 code H28, the underlying disease (e.g., hypoparathyroidism, myotonia, myxedema, protein-calorie malnutrition) should be reported as the primary diagnosis.

Reimbursement

Participating facilities will be reimbursed per their Highmark WholecareSM contract.