



## UEI Coding Alert # 19

March 1, 2006

### Coding Contact Lens for a Medical Condition

The CPT code you report depends on the medical condition the lenses will treat:

- A. Use CPT 92310 (*prescription of optical and physical characteristics and fitting of contact lens*) for treating a refractive error, not a medical condition.
- B. For aphakic patients, report CPT 92311(*...corneal lens for aphakia, one eye*) CPT 92312 (*...corneal lens for aphakia, both eyes*).
- C. If the patient has a corneal abrasion, use CPT 92070 (*fitting of a contact lens for treatment of disease, including supply of lens*). The contact lens used to treat corneal abrasions is a "Bandage Contact Lens" and in this case is used to treat a medical condition, not a refractive condition.
- D. If the patient has keratoconus, use CPT 92070 to show that the lens is for treatment of a medical condition, not a refractive condition. Since this code specifies that it includes the supply of the lens, and you use the more expensive gas-permeable lens, you can bill the carrier for the expense, but you will need to send a brief explanation detailing why you used the gas-permeable lens to substantiate the cost. Append modifier -22 to CPT 92070 to indicate the procedure is greater than usual.

There are three general tips to remember about CPT 92070:

- First, it is a unilateral code. If you place lenses in both eyes, you can bill it twice with the correct eye modifiers (LT - left eye, RT - right eye).
- Second, you can bill an E&M service code (992XX) or an ophthalmic code (922XX) along with CPT 92070. If you take slit lamp photos, you can bill CPT 92285 (also a unilateral code).
- Be sure to fully document the medical necessity and use the appropriate diagnosis codes to identify the patient's medical condition that is being treated.