



Vision Services

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0102.1200

Recent review date: 09/2025

Next review date: 12/2026

AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.

In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.

To the extent that any procedure and/or diagnosis codes are specified in this policy, such inclusion is provided for reference purposes only, may not be all inclusive, and is not intended to serve as billing instructions. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

Policy Overview

This policy addresses vision services, eyeglass frames, lenses, and contact lenses.

Exceptions

Members 21 years or older with a diagnosis of aphakia or cataracts, and some members with diabetes, may be eligible for eye wear (glasses or contacts).

Reimbursement Guidelines

Routine eye examinations are covered services and therefore eligible for reimbursement by AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina for certain members each calendar year. Members under 21 are eligible for one pair of prescription eyeglasses **OR** one set of contact lenses every 12 months fabricated by Nash Optical per North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina offers adults ages 21 through 64 an additional pair of glasses and one extra eye exam every two years, in addition to the traditional Medicaid benefit.

Service	Members under 21 Years of Age	Members 21 +
Eye Exams	1 routine eye exam every calendar year	1 routine eye exam every 2 year.
Eyeglasses* (frames) (V2020)	1 pair of in-plan selection eyeglass frames every 12 months.	1 pair of in plan selection of eyeglass frames every 2years.
Lenses*	1 pair of standard lenses every 12 months	1 pair of standard lenses every 2 years.
Contact Lenses	Requires prior authorization	Requires prior authorization

Extended ophthalmoscopy with a retinal/optic nerve drawing, (unilateral or bilateral) (92201-92202) is non-covered when billed with fundus photography (92250) or a with fluorescein angiography (92235).

An extended ophthalmoscopy with a retinal/optic nerve drawing, (unilateral or bilateral) will not be reimbursed without a diagnosis of disorders of the globe, choroid, retina, iris and ciliary body, or glaucoma.

Lenses

Reimbursement of V2100 (sphere, single vision, plano to plus or minus 4.00, per lens) and V2101 (sphere, single vision, plus or minus 4.12 to plus or minus 7.00D, per lens), is limited to once in a 12-month period.

Contacts

Members may choose prescription contact lenses instead of glasses with prior authorization.

*One replacement pair of eyeglass frames or lenses per year when broken, damaged, or lost.

Definitions

Extended ophthalmoscopy

The method of examining the posterior portion of the eye when the level of examination requires a complete view of the back of the eye and documentation is greater than that required during routine ophthalmoscopy.

Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and associated publications and services.
- II. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).
- III. AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina provider manual.
- IV. <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/6a-routine-eye-exam-and-visual-aids-recipients-under-age-21/download?attachment>
- V. <https://www.amerihhealthcaritasnc.com/provider/forms/index.aspx>
- VI. Applicable North Carolina Medicaid Fee Schedule(s).

Attachments

N/A

Associated Policies

N/A

Policy History

09/2025	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
08/2025	Annual Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor updates• Revised reimbursement guidelines
06/2025	Minor updates to formatting and syntax
04/2025	Revised preamble
04/2024	Revised preamble
08/2023	Removal of policy implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina from Policy History section
01/2023	Template Revised <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revised preamble• Removal of Applicable Claim Types table• Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines• Added Associated Policies section