

# BENEFIT COVERAGE POLICY

**Title:** BCP-76 Repair of Brow Ptosis

**Effective Date:** 1/1/2019



Physicians Health Plan  
PHP Insurance Company  
PHP Service Company

## Important Information - Please Read Before Using This Policy

The following coverage policy applies to health benefit plans administered by PHP and may not be covered by all PHP plans. Please refer to the member's benefit document for specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member's benefit document, the member's benefit document will be used to determine coverage. For example, a member's benefit document may contain a specific exclusion related to a topic addressed in a coverage policy.

Coverage determinations for individual requests require consideration of:

1. The terms of the applicable benefit document in effect on the date of service.
2. Any applicable laws and regulations.
3. Any relevant collateral source materials including coverage policies.
4. The specific facts of the particular situation.

Contact PHP Customer Service to discuss plan benefits more specifically.

### 1.0 Policy:

Health Plan covers repair of brow ptosis (browplasty) when clinical criteria described below are met and covered services are received from network providers.

Services for repair of brow ptosis require prior approval for the health service being provided.

For all non-network covered services to be paid at the network benefit level except for emergency/urgent services, prior approval is required.

This policy does not guarantee or approve Benefits. Coverage depends on the specific Benefit plan. Benefit Coverage Policies are not recommendations for treatment and should not be used as treatment guidelines. Refer to member's benefit coverage document for specific benefit description, guidelines, coverage, and exclusions.

### 2.0 Background:

Brow ptosis (drooping of the eyebrows) is usually the result of aging. It is a condition in which excess tissue of the brow may result in obstruction of the visual field or chronic dermatitis. Brow ptosis may also occur secondary to paralysis or weakness of the forehead muscle caused by facial nerve palsy – Bell's palsy, acoustic neuroma, surgical trauma, birth trauma, myasthenia gravis, myotonic dystrophy or oculopharyngeal dystrophy.

Repair of brow ptosis, a brow lift, can be performed alone or in conjunction with a blepharoplasty to correct droopy eyelids.

Patients considering an eyelid and brow surgery need to undergo a complete ophthalmic plastics examination that includes visual acuity, exam of the pupils, eye movement, facial nerve function, history of trauma or diagnoses that may cause drooping of the eyelids or brows.

### 3.0 Clinical Determination Guidelines:

- A. The surgical procedures are considered restorative/reconstructive and not cosmetic when the criteria below are met.
  1. Chronic eyelid dermatitis; OR

2. There is a difference of 12 degrees or more or at least 30 percent superior visual field difference is demonstrated between visual field testing before and after manual elevation of the upper eyelids.
3. Medical record should include:
  - Visual field testing reports in both taped and un-taped positions.
  - Photographs with views of full-face anterior position, right and left lateral views with straightforward gaze.

**B. Exclusions:**

1. Ptosis repair or brow lift surgery to improve the appearance when no functional impairment exists is considered cosmetic.

**4.0 Coding:**

Prior Approval Legend: Y = All lines of business; N = None required; 1 = HMO/POS; 2 = PPO; 3 = ASO group L0000264; 4 = ASO group L0001269 Non-Union; 5 = ASO group L0001631; 6 = ASO group L0002011; 7 = ASO group L0001269 Union.

| <b>COVERED CODES</b> |  |                       |  |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Code</b>          | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Prior Approval</b> | <b>COC Reference</b>                               |
| 67900                | Repair of brow ptosis (supraciliary, mid-forehead or coronal approach) | Y                     | Benefits and Coverage; Outpatient Surgery Services |

**5.0 Unique Configuration/Prior Approval/Coverage Details:**

None.

**6.0 Terms & Definitions:**

Brow ptosis – usually the result of changes from aging that affect the forehead muscles and soft tissue but may also occur as a result of other conditions such as facial palsy, or after trauma or surgery.

Visual field - a subjective measure of central and peripheral vision and may be done by a number of methods. Many diseases can adversely affect the visual field including glaucoma, stroke, high blood pressure, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, hyperthyroidism. Medications that can affect the visual field include anti-malarial drugs (chloroquine/ Atabrine and hydroxychloroquine/ Plaquenil).

**7.0 References, Citations & Resources:**

BCBSM and BCN Medical Policy, Blepharoplasty and Repair of Brow Ptosis, 05/01/2018. Available at: <https://www.bcbsm.com/mprApp/MedicalPolicyDocument?fileId=2124950>.

**8.0 Associated Documents [For internal use only]:**

Business Process Flow (BPF) – None.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) – MM-03 Benefit Determinations; MM-55 Peer-to-Peer Conversations; SOP 007 Algorithm for Use of Criteria for Benefit Determinations.

Desk Level Procedure (DLP) – None.

Sample Letter – TCS Approval Letter; Clinically Reviewed Exclusion Letter; Partial Coverage, Partial Non-Coverage Letter; Specific Exclusion Denial Letter.

Form – Request Form: Out of Network/Prior Authorization.

Other – None.

**9.0 Revision History**

Original Effective Date: 09/25/2018

Last Approval Date: 09/25/2018

Next Review Date: 09/25/2019

| <b>Revision Date</b> | <b>Reason for Revision</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| June 2018            | Policy created             |
|                      |                            |