

**PREMIER EYE CARE CLINICAL CRITERIA FOR APPROVALS**

**(revised August 17, 2023)**

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- 4 **1. OD Medical Directors may review and approve authorization requests if they meet**
- 5 **guidelines as established by American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Preferred**
- 6 **Practice Patterns.**
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- 8 **2. MD Medical Directors to review authorization requests when procedure is**
- 9 **CONTRAINDICATED as established by AAO Preferred Practice Guidelines. See examples**
- 10 **below:**

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12 **AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- 13 • Verteporfin (Visudyne) photodynamic therapy (PDT) is contraindicated in patients with
- 14 porphyria or a known allergy or sensitivity to the drug, and careful consideration should
- 15 be given to patients with liver dysfunction and patients who are pregnant, breast
- 16 feeding, or of pediatric age because these patients were not studied in published
- 17 reports.

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19 **CATARACT SURGERY CONTRAINDICATIONS**

20 Surgery for a visually impairing cataract should **not** be performed under the following

21 circumstances:

- 22 • Tolerable refractive correction provides vision that meets the patient's needs and
- 23 desires.
- 24 • Surgery is not expected to improve visual function, and no other indication for lens
- 25 removal exists.
- 26 • The patient cannot safely undergo surgery because of coexisting medical or ocular
- 27 conditions.
- 28 • Appropriate postoperative care cannot be arranged.
- 29 • The patient or patient's surrogate decision maker is unable to give informed consent for
- 30 non -emergent surgery.

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32 **DIABETIC RETINOPATHY LASER AND SURGERY CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- 33 • Endophthalmitis
- 34 • Periocular infections
- 35 • Corneal Opacity

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**GLAUCOMA LASER AND SURGERY CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- **Contraindication to Laser Trabeculoplasty**

The use of laser trabeculoplasty is contraindicated in patients with corneal edema or opacities that prevent a clear view of the anterior chamber angle, in those who have post-traumatic or uveitic secondary glaucoma, and in situations requiring a large decrease in intraocular pressure.

- **Contraindications to Surgery**

Filtration surgery is contraindicated in eyes that are already blind and in patients with severe systemic medical problems.

**STRABISMUS SURGERY CONTRAINDICATIONS (rev. April 20, 2015)**

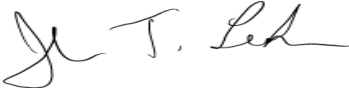
- Restrictive eye muscle (e.g., thyroid eye disease)
- Co-contraction of muscles (Duane syndrome)
- Contraindications to anesthesia (e.g., malignant hyperthermia, high risk medical status)
- Recent onset paresis with likelihood of improvement
- Fully accommodative esotropia
- [Patient](#) with unrealistic expectations

**RETINAL DETACHMENT SURGERY CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- No contraindications according to AAO.

UM Committee Approval: 09/18/2023

Medical Director Approval: 08/17/2023



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John Lehr, M.D. Medical Director

8/17/2023  
Date

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<b>REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Annual review; no updates	08/17/2023
Annual review; updated AAO Preferred Practice Patterns references and Cataract Surgery contraindications	06/22/2022
Annual review; no updates	6/16/2021
Annual review; no updates	4/1/2020
Annual review; no updates	2/19/2019
Annual review; no updates	4/1/2018
Annual review; no updates	2/14/2017
Annual review; no updates	4/19/2016
Annual review; revised Strabismus contraindications per AAO guidelines	4/20/2015
Approved	April 2014

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