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We know changes in the marketplace are causing some confusion with surgical glaucoma procedures. One thing is clear, the cataract plus micro-stent procedure continues to have strong coverage and reimbursement. The 2024 OPPS rule released by CMS on November 2, 2023 finalized significant payment increases for the combined procedure, refer to the chart below:

Medicare National Unadjusted Payment Rates (rates will vary geographically)

Site of Care	Procedure	2023 Payment	2024 Payment	% Increase
ASC	Cataract (66984)	$1,101	**$1,184**	**7.5%**
ASC	**Cataract + MIGS (66991)**	$3,273	**$3,694**	**13%**
HOPD	Cataract (66984)	$2,159	**$2,223**	**3%**
HOPD	**Cataract + MIGS (66991)**	$4,250	**$4,985**	**17%**

For reference, here's a summary for Hydrus Microstent:

What is Hydrus Microstent? The Hydrus® Microstent is an 8 mm, biocompatible, flexible, nitinol (ie, alloy of nickel and titanium) device designed to be inserted into Schlemm's canal through an opening in the trabecular meshwork using a unique delivery system. It functions as an intracanalicular scaffold to facilitate aqueous drainage from the anterior chamber.

What is the indication for Hydrus? The Hydrus® Microstent is indicated for use in conjunction with cataract surgery for the reduction of intraocular pressure (IOP) in adult patients with mild to moderate primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG).

Do Medicare and other payors cover? Hydrus continues to have broad coverage across Medicare, Medicare Advantage and Commercial payors.

Where can I get specific billing guidance for Hydrus? Alcon billing and coding information can be found online at ars.alcon.com, by phone at (866) 457-0277, or by email at ARS.SupportUS@alcon.com

What do practice guidelines say about the use of implantable microstents for glaucoma surgery? In the 2020 American Academy of Ophthalmology Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma Preferred Practice Pattern guidelines, the Hydrus Microstent received a data rating of

"moderate quality, strong recommendation"; the highest rating given among all MIGS. (Source: Gedde SJ, et al. Primary open-angle glaucoma preferred practice pattern. Ophthalmology 2020;128(1):71-150.)

What CPT describes implantation of Hydrus?

66991: Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (1-stage procedure), manual or mechanical technique (eg, irrigation and aspiration or phacoemulsification); with insertion of intraocular (eg, trabecular meshwork, supraciliary, suprachoroidal) anterior segment aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir, internal approach, one or more.

66989: 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 insertion of intraocular (eg, trabecular meshwork, supraciliary, suprachoroidal) anterior segment aqueous drainage device, without extraocular reservoir, internal approach, one or more.

Have Questions?

For additional information, contact Corcoran Consulting Group reps Mary Pat Johnson at mpjohnson@corcoranccg.com or Brandy Sperry at bsperry@corcoranccg.com.

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