

Glaucoma, Open-Angle - Referral Management

RMG: R-0029 (AC)
[Link to Codes](#)

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Clinical Indications

- Referral for open-angle glaucoma may be indicated for **1 or more** of the following(1):
 - Genetics referral for evaluation or management of genetic disorder associated with congenital glaucoma (eg, homocystinuria, Lowe syndrome, primary congenital glaucoma)(2)(3)(4)(5)
 - ☐ Ophthalmology referral for evaluation or management of **1 or more** of the following(6)(7)(8)(9):
 - Follow-up needed due to failure to achieve target intraocular pressure(10)
 - Pediatric patient(4)(5)(11)(12)(13)
 - Pharmacotherapy change needed, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following:
 - Glaucoma medication interference with other systemic medications(14)
 - Medication intolerance(15)(16)
 - Patient is pregnant or breast-feeding.(17)
 - Pharmacotherapy needed (eg, topical ophthalmic medication)(18)
 - Primary open-angle glaucoma, suspected, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following[A](3)(6)(21):
 - Abnormal visual fields by confrontation or other testing
 - Disc hemorrhage
 - Elevated intraocular pressure on tonometry (eg, greater than 21 mm Hg)(9)(22)
 - High-risk patient, and need for screening, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following(23)(24)(25):
 - Age 40 years or older with risk factors, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following(19):
 - African, Caribbean, or Hispanic ancestry(26)(27)(28)
 - Elevated intraocular pressure
 - Family history of glaucoma
 - High myopia
 - Medical condition associated with increased risk of glaucoma, as indicated by **1 or more** of the following(29):
 - Diabetes(30)
 - Low diastolic perfusion pressure
 - Migraine headache or peripheral vasospasm
 - Age 65 years or older
 - Loss of visual acuity
 - Notching of neuroretinal rim
 - Optic cup-disc ratio difference of 0.2 or greater between discs
 - Suspicious optic disc cupping (ie, cup-disc ratio greater than 0.5)
 - Surgery needed (eg, laser trabeculoplasty or trabeculectomy)(3)(4)(18)(21)(31)

Evidence Summary

Criteria

The evidence for the clinical indications found in this guideline includes 22 published peer reviewed articles, 3 specialty society or other evidence-based guidelines, 2 Cochrane systematic reviews, and 3 book sections.

Rationale

Use of this MCG care guideline helps the clinician identify specific complex factors of a patient's condition that may need specialist consultation. It provides evidence-based clinical criteria to help decide when a patient should be referred to a specialist, ensuring timely specialty care. Additionally, this guideline can help limit unnecessary differences in treatment, like variable criteria for emergency or subspecialist referral, thereby promoting equal access and quality of care for similar patients, regardless of location, facility, or clinician.

Related CMS Coverage Guidance

None applicable

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Footnotes

[A] A diagnosis of glaucoma is based on a cluster of clinical findings, most notably characteristic changes in the optic disc, defects of the retinal nerve fiber layer, and loss of visual field. A glaucoma diagnosis does not rely solely on intraocular pressure because there is a wide distribution of intraocular pressure measures in the general population. Additionally, decreased central corneal thickness may result in artificially lower intraocular pressure measurements.(3)(19)(20) [A in Context Link 1]

Codes

ICD-10 Diagnosis: H40.001, H40.002, H40.003, H40.009, H40.011, H40.012, H40.013, H40.019, H40.021, H40.022, H40.023, H40.029, H40.051, H40.052, H40.053, H40.059, H40.10X0, H40.10X1, H40.10X2, H40.10X3, H40.10X4, H40.1110, H40.1111, H40.1112, H40.1113, H40.1114, H40.1120, H40.1121, H40.1122, H40.1123, H40.1124, H40.1130, H40.1131, H40.1132, H40.1133, H40.1134, H40.1190, H40.1191, H40.1192, H40.1193, H40.1194, H40.1210, H40.1211, H40.1212, H40.1213, H40.1214, H40.1220, H40.1221, H40.1222, H40.1223, H40.1224, H40.1230, H40.1231, H40.1232, H40.1233, H40.1234, H40.1290, H40.1291, H40.1292, H40.1293, H40.1294, H40.1310, H40.1311, H40.1312, H40.1313, H40.1314, H40.1320, H40.1321, H40.1322, H40.1323, H40.1324, H40.1330, H40.1331, H40.1332, H40.1333, H40.1334, H40.1390, H40.1391, H40.1392, H40.1393, H40.1394, H40.1410, H40.1411, H40.1412, H40.1413, H40.1414, H40.1420, H40.1421, H40.1422, H40.1423, H40.1424, H40.1430, H40.1431, H40.1432, H40.1433, H40.1434, H40.1490, H40.1491, H40.1492, H40.1493, H40.1494, H40.151, H40.152, H40.153, H40.159, H47.231, H47.232, H47.233, H47.239, Q15.0, Z13.5, Z83.511 [Hide]

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