

EXCIMER LASER EYE SURGERY

CRITERIA BASED ACCESS

Excimer laser treatments are only funded when all of the following criteria are met:

1) Treatment is subject to evaluation as agreed in the commissioning risk management plan

AND

2) The patient would otherwise require surgical treatment of their corneal disorder i.e. manual debridement, corneal graft or arcuate keratotomy.

AND

3) The patient requires one of the following procedures in (a) or (b) below, for the conditions specified:

a. Phototherapeutic keratectomy (PTK):

- I. Superficial and stromal corneal dystrophies and degenerations (including band keratopathy, granular dystrophy, macular dystrophy, lattice dystrophy and Reis-Bückler's dystrophy); **or**
- II. Epithelial membrane dystrophy; **or**
- III. Irregular corneal surfaces secondary to degenerations including Salzmann's nodular degeneration, Spheroidal degeneration, or keratoconus nodules; **or**
- IV. Corneal scars and opacities (including post-traumatic, post-infectious, post-surgical, and secondary to pathology); **or**

Recurrent corneal erosions when more conservative measures (e.g., lubricants, bandage contact lenses, course of oral Doxycycline treatment, gentle debridement of severely aberrant epithelium) have failed to halt the erosions.

b. Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK), laser assisted epithelial keratomileusis (LASEK) and laser assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) procedures following corneal transplant surgery or cataract surgery when there is:

- I. Post-operative regular astigmatism greater or equal to 2.00 dioptres or irregular astigmatism or anisometropia (the difference in optical power between the two eyes) greater or equal to 2.00 dioptres;

AND

The patient must be intolerant of spectacles or contact lenses, as assessed by a Corneal Consultant Ophthalmologist (based upon review of symptoms and clinical examination including refraction by an optometrist and corneal topography after a period of spectacle or lens wear).