



# Billing Primer

Corneal Tissue Addition for Keratoplasty (CTAK) with Medicare and Commercial Payers



## Overview

At CorneaGen, we are advocates for you and your patients. We are committed to removing systemic barriers that limit patients' access to care and surgeons' ability to provide the best corneal treatments to their patients.

This primer outlines proper billing for facilities performing CTAK (Corneal Tissue Addition for Keratoplasty) with payment methodologies from both Medicare and commercial insurance payers. The procedure code for the surgery is CPT® code 65710 (Keratoplasty; anterior lamellar), and the code for the corneal tissue is HCPCS code V2785 (Processing, preserving, and transporting corneal tissue).

## Understanding the Codes

**CPT® code 65710:** This code describes the surgical procedure, which is for Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty.

**HCPCS code V2785:** This code describes the acquisition of corneal tissue, including processing, preservation, and transportation.

## Reimbursement for CTAK

During the process for claim submission, it is important to note that the CTAK procedure should only be billed / reported as Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty. CTAK is included under this procedure code.

### Medicare

Reimburses separately for the surgical procedure (CPT® code 65710) and the corneal tissue (HCPCS code V2785).

- The payment for CPT® code 65710 is based on the fee schedule rate calculated by the individual Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC).
- Corneal tissue reimbursement is based on the eye bank invoice.
- Medicare pays 80% of the Allowable with 20% patient responsibility. The remaining 20% is generally paid for by a Medicare Advantage plan, a Supplemental plan, etc...

### Commercial Payers

Reimbursement will vary from one payer to another based on the specific insurance plan.

- Verify coverage and benefits with the patient's insurance company prior to performing the CTAK procedure. This is generally accomplished by performing a Prior Authorization.
- Reimbursement for both CPT® code 65710 and HCPCS code V2785 (if one exists) would be determined by both the negotiated "confidential and proprietary" contract between provider and payer, as well as the plan member's benefits.

## Facility Billing Requirements

### Medicare Claims

**Hospitals:** To receive cost-based reimbursement, submit charges for corneal tissue acquisition using HCPCS code V2785 which has a Medicare Status Indicator “F” meaning that corneal tissue is not paid under OPPS but paid at reasonable cost.

**Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs):** HCPCS code V2785 is to be billed separately in addition to CPT® code 65710 to receive appropriate payment for keratoplasty. ASCs must submit an electronic or paper copy of the eye bank invoice along with the claims form. All MACs require billing HCPCS code V2785 on the claim identifying corneal tissue. ASCs have a Payment Indicator of F4 which indicates, “Corneal tissue acquisition; paid at reasonable costs”.

**Both POSs:** Submit an electronic or paper copy of the eye bank invoice with the claim form.

### Commercial Payers Claims

Bill both CPT® code 65710 and HCPCS code V2785 on the same claim form.  
Include patient’s insurance card, prior authorization documents (if required), and eye bank invoice.

## Important Points to Remember

- Verify insurance coverage and benefits prior to performing CTAK.
- Confirm the submitted codes CPT® code 65710 and HCPCS code V2785 are current and match the procedure being performed.
- Review your current payer contract to ensure there are no restrictions or limitations as well as a payment rate for both the procedure and tissue.
- Understand prior authorization processes and documentation requirements for commercial payers.

#### **Disclaimer:**

All customers are reminded that CTAK coverage is based on medical necessity and payments made by both Medicare and / or commercial payers will be different based on their coverage policies, contracts, etc... Contact your local Medicare Administrative Contractor or the individual commercial payer for additional guidance and information.