

# Medical Policy Updates

For criteria related to a medical decision, call Care Management at 800-722-4714, option 3. Medical policies are available at [premera.com/ak/provider](https://premera.com/ak/provider) under Quick Links, Medical Policies.

## New Policy: Fundus Photography

For dates of service Aug. 1, 2016, and later, we will review fundus photography for medical necessity. A photo of the lining at the back of the eye (the fundus) may be medically necessary in these cases:

- To examine the retina when the anatomy is abnormal
- To evaluate or follow progression of specific eye disease or injury when the information is needed for a treatment plan

Fundus photography is considered **not medically necessary** in these instances:

- A routine eye exam shows normal findings
- Eye disease is present, but there are no symptoms

Fundus photography is considered **investigational** to screen for eye diseases.

Please review medical policy 9.03.507 Fundus Photography on the provider website for full medical necessity criteria and policy guidelines.

Premera medical policies are guidelines used to evaluate the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. We adopt policies after careful review of published, peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines, and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, we reserve the right to review and update our policies as appropriate.

When there are differences between the member's contract and medical policy, the member's contract prevails. The existence of a medical policy regarding a specific service or treatment does not guarantee that the member's contract covers that service.

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