

Eligibility criteria for corneal cross-linking

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of corneal cross-linking under a member's policy when criteria **1 and 2 OR 1 and 3** below are met for that member.

1. Corrected distance visual acuity (CDVA) is 6/18 or better prior to the treatment.
2. Where progressive keratoconus is demonstrated by **at least one** of the following:
 - a. a measured increase in maximum central Amsler-Krumeich reading (K value) of at least 1.00 D over a maximum 2-year period
 - b. a change in either myopia and/or astigmatism of 1 diopters (D) or more over a period of 1 year, or
 - c. a mean central corneal thickness decrease of 5% or more over a period of 1 year.
3. Where a member is 16 years of age or younger with newly diagnosed keratoconus, they must meet both **a and b** below:
 - a. clinical history suggestive of recent progression based on reported or demonstrated deterioration in vision, **and**
 - b. the treating ophthalmologist judges there to be a high risk of further clinically significant visual loss for the member if a delay in treatment occurs allowing further progression of disease.

The cost of corneal cross-linking will **not** be reimbursed in the following circumstances:

- for patients where the disease is stable
- where the corneal thickness is measured at less than 400 microns immediately prior to the application of UV laser
- for patients with a Amsler-Krumeich reading (K value) over 58.00 D
- for patients with a documented history of delayed wound healing
- for treatment of post-LASIK keratectasia.

Please also ensure you are familiar with all **policy exclusions**, including:

- Acute care
- Congenital conditions
- Cosmetic treatment/procedures
- Health screening
- Treatment of any condition not detrimental to health
- Unapproved healthcare services.

Refer to the relevant policy document for specific conditions and exceptions that apply to these exclusions.