Transpupillary Thermotherapy (TTT)
MPM 20.5

**Disclaimer**
Refer to the member’s specific benefit plan and *Schedule of Benefits* to determine coverage. This may not be a benefit on all plans or the plan may have broader or more limited benefits than those listed in this Medical Policy.

**Description**
Transpupillary thermotherapy (TTT) is one of several treatments that may be utilized for the treatment of retinoblastoma. TTT delivers low-intensity heat by infrared laser through the dilated pupil into the posterior segment of the eye. For the treatment of small retinoblastomas, TTT may be utilized alone or in conjunction with chemoreduction. TTT is currently used in selected cases of small choroidal melanomas, either as a primary or adjunctive treatment.\(^2\)

**Coverage Determination**
Prior Authorization is required. Logon to Pres Online to submit a request: [https://ds.phs.org/preslogin/index.jsp](https://ds.phs.org/preslogin/index.jsp)

The Presbyterian Medical Policy for this procedure has been retired. Presbyterian now uses Aetna criteria “Transpupillary Thermal Therapy” #0490. This criteria may be accessed online at [http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/400_499/0490.html](http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/400_499/0490.html)

**Background**
Retinoblastoma arises in the retina and accounts for about 3% of the cancers occurring in children younger than 15 years of age. Although retinoblastoma may occur at any age, it most often occurs in younger children. Treatments vary according to the size and location of the retinoblastoma, as well as factors such as vitreal or subretinal seeding. The goal of treatment is to eradicate the retinoblastoma and prevent blindness and other serious effects of treatment that reduce the lifespan or quality of survival.\(^1\)

The accuracy of diagnosis for small melanomas is uncertain. Small tumors may not produce symptoms and may go undetected unless discovered during a routine eye examination. The management of choroidal melanomas depends on many factors, mostly importantly tumor size and location. In otherwise healthy patients, a small choroidal melanoma in the posterior fundus is amenable to several treatment options, including radiation therapy, laser photocoagulation, transpupillary thermotherapy, a combination of these methods, or even enucleation. Appropriate patient and tumor selection is critical to successful treatment. Follow-up is extremely important as late recurrences are not uncommon.\(^2,4,8,9\)
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Approval Signatures:

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Publication History

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07-23-08: Transition to Medical Policy, annual review and revision
09-23-09: Annual review and revision
09-22-10: Annual review
01-18-12: Annual Review
02-27-13: Annual Review
01-29-14: Presbyterian Policy Retired
01-29-14: Presbyterian now uses Aetna criteria #0490.

This Medical Policy is intended to represent clinical guidelines describing medical appropriateness and is developed to assist Presbyterian Health Plan and Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc. (Presbyterian) Health Services staff and Presbyterian medical directors in determination of coverage. The Medical Policy is not a treatment guide and should not be used as such.

For those instances where a member does not meet the criteria described in these guidelines, additional information supporting medical necessity is welcome and may be utilized by the medical director in reviewing the case. Please note that all Presbyterian Medical Policies are available on the Internet at:
http://www.phs.org/phs/healthplans/providers/healthservices/Medical/index.htm