

REFRACTION SERVICE AND FEE

Refraction is the process of determining if there is a need for corrective eyeglasses or contact lenses. It is an essential part of an eye examination and is necessary to write a prescription for glasses and/or contact lenses. At times, it is medically necessary to perform a refraction to help determine the cause of visual changes. In adults, it is often necessary to do this examination when certain issues such as cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and double vision occur. In children, a refraction is often required to evaluate the cause of poor vision, amblyopia (e.g. lazy eye), and eye misalignment. These are just a few of the common ways this service is needed.

Most medical insurance plans, including Medicare, do NOT cover routine refractions or routine eye examinations (e.g. an eye examination when no medical eye problems are known or suspected). Medicare allows that we charge separately for this portion of the eye examination since it is not a covered service. This policy has been in place since 2007. Since most private insurance carriers follow Medicare guidelines, they often adopt this same policy.

If you have a separate vision plan that covers routine or annual eye examinations and/or glasses, please let us know. However, like most ophthalmology practices, we do not participate with most vision plans.

The refraction fee is a separate fee from the eye examination fee. Our office fee for Refraction is \$45.00. This fee is collected at the time of service in addition to any co-payment your plan may require. Should your plan pay us separately for the refraction, we will of course reimburse you accordingly. Finally, this fee may not be assessed at every one of your eye examinations/visits with us. It is only charged when performed by the physician or ophthalmic technician.

If you have any questions regarding Medicare and insurance policies and procedures, please do not hesitate to ask. We will do our best to assist you. Thank you for your understanding and allowing us to participate in your care.