



Please Read Before Your Eye Examination

Routine Care vs. Medical Care Visits

**Regular eye examinations are important to maintain your vision for your lifetime. It is important that you be aware of your insurance benefits and how they apply to your visit, so you will know how billing will be handled. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to know what your own medical or vision plan covers. We hope this information will help you to understand how your visit is submitted to your insurance for today’s visit and future visits with Associated Eye Care.**

Benefits may vary based upon the reason for your visit. Your description of your eye condition will help us to determine whether your visit to the clinic is defined as “Routine” or “Medical”. Your symptoms and eye examination will determine how your visit is coded and billed to your insurance.

**Routine Eye Examinations** A “routine eye exam” takes place when you come for an eye examination without any medical eye problem, and there are *no symptoms* except for visual changes that can be corrected by glasses or contact lenses. The doctor screens the eyes for disease and finds *no medical problems*. Glasses and contact lens prescriptions may be updated.

**Medical Eye Examinations** Your visit will be coded as a “medical eye examination” whenever you are being evaluated or treated for a medical condition or symptom that you bring up, eye problems you tell our staff about, or a condition that the doctor finds during the examination. Examples that will necessitate your visit being submitted to your insurance as a “medical eye examination” include headache, diabetes mellitus, eye irritation, dry eyes, allergies, contact lens intolerance, glaucoma, cataract, eye muscle imbalance, “lazy eye”, macular degeneration, and others. Please note that if you have diabetes mellitus, and would like us to send a letter to your primary care physician regarding your eye examination, the visit will be coded as a “medical eye examination”.

**Vision Service Signature Plan (VSP)** If your vision plan is Vision Service Signature Plan (VSP), we need to be aware of this coverage prior to your exam to obtain an authorization from them. VSP covers only routine eye examinations. If you report symptoms during your visit related to an eye problem, disease, or injury, or your doctor determines that your problem falls under the category of a “medical eye examination”, your visit will be billed to your medical insurance instead of your vision care insurance, which will be subject to co-pays and deductibles according to your plan. If you determine that you have coverage with VSP after your exam has been completed, we will not bill VSP for you, but will be happy to provide you with a financial print out so you may file a claim with VSP.

Check one:       I do have VSP as my vision plan                       I do not have VSP  
Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**In summary, how your eye exam will be submitted to your insurance carrier will depend not only upon what you tell the doctor, but also what the doctor finds upon examination. Insurance companies frown upon our changing the way we code your examination after the fact. Remember, there are vision plans that do not cover medical exams and medical plans that do not cover routine eye care. If you have any questions, please ask a member of our staff.**