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Today's Visit

Prior to the exam, it is often difficult to determine whether or not your exam will be considered "routine". Many times vision problems and medical problems overlap with the same set of symptoms. In order to qualify for a "routine vision" designation, the patient must have no complaints related to medical eye conditions, no current or previous known medical eye conditions, no systemic diseases that typically cause eye problems such as diabetes, and take no medications that commonly cause side effects in the eyes. The only diagnoses that are considered routine are diagnoses of refractive error- i.e you only need eyeglasses - myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism, and presbyopia. Any other diagnoses is considered medical. Once a medical condition is diagnosed, all future examinations will be considered medical unless the condition is temporary.

Frequent Asked Questions

I came in for a routine eye exam, not a medical exam. Why is my medical carrier being billed?

In general, if you have conditions other than simply the need for glasses, the medical carrier needs to be billed. So if you are here for a medical complaint or you have an established medical eye diagnosis, we cannot use your routine vision insurance for the examination. Please note that you may return for your routine eye examination and refraction for glasses on another day, or you have the option to pay a separate charge of \$50.00 for your refraction at the time of your medical appointment. If you choose this option, you may still use your vision plan toward the purchase of glasses or contacts, without the inconvenience of returning for another appointment. Please note that if you have medical insurance and a vision plan we will always do the medical examination first.

What is the benefit of purchasing a vision plan if it cannot be billed for my exam?

Most vision plans cover glasses and/or contact lenses. For many patients, using the vision plan for materials provides a great deal of savings and may be beneficial even if exam is not covered at the time of the medical evaluation.

What happens if the doctor finds a medical problem in the course of routine exam on a new patient with no history of eye diseases or medical complaints?

The doctor will present the patient with an option. The vision exam can be completed and billed to the vision service plan and the patient will be asked to make another appointment to address the medical issues identified.

In the second option, the patient and doctor can decide that the medical issue needs to be addressed and the exam will be billed to the medical insurance. The patient can then make another appointment which will address their vision plan issues. As mentioned previously, for your convenience you have the option to pay a separate charge of \$50.00 for your refraction at the time of your medical appointment, thereby avoiding a return office visit.

Why do I have a deductible?

Many medical plans, including Medicare, have a yearly deductible which must be met before services are paid. Services applied to your deductible are covered, but must be paid for out-of-pocket until the deductible amount written in you contract is met. Once you meet your deductible, you may also have a coinsurance. For example, you may be responsible for 20% of the cost of services.

What is refraction and why is it not covered?

The refraction is the portion of your eye exam that determines your eyeglass prescription. Some insurance companies consider this "routine" and will deny the claim if there is no routine coverage on the plan, while paying the medical portion of your exam. If this happens, and you have a separate vision plan, we may be able to bill the refraction to that plan. Otherwise, this may become your financial responsibility.

Do you want a routine vision/glasses examination?	Yes	No
Do you currently wear Contacts Lenses	Yes	No
Do you want a Contact Lens Evaluation and Fitting	Yes	No

I understand that both my medical and/or vision insurances may be billed today depending on my diagnosis. I understand that there may be an additional charge of \$50.00 for a routine examination which includes refraction for glasses.

Patient _____ (Please Print)

Signature _____ Date _____