

## “REFRACTION?”

### Why do I have to pay?



If you've been to the eye doctor you may have heard the phrase, "Which is better: 1 or 2?" This is one of the most important parts of your eye exam: the **Refraction**. That is the part of the exam by which we determine whether you can be helped in any way by a new glasses prescription. It is also how we determine the best possible visual acuity and function of your eye, which is essential information for us to have as we assess your eyes and look for problems. ***A refraction must be performed if you wish to get a new prescription for glasses or to update your current prescription. This is the vision portion of your complete eye exam. Eyeglass prescription will be given.***

However, most **medical insurance companies including Medicare will not cover the refraction portion** of the eye exam even if the patient is being seen for a medical reason. These plans consider refraction a "vision" service not a "medical" service. Unless you are utilizing a separate vision insurance (such as VSP), you will be asked to pay for this service **in addition** to any co-payments, co-insurances or deductibles your plan may require at the time of your visit. As a courtesy and in accordance with our contract with Medicare and commercial insurances, we will submit a bill for the refraction and the accompanying exam to your insurance company. Should your plan pay us for the refraction, we will reimburse you accordingly.

**Our fee** for the refraction service, including an updated corrective eye glass prescription, is **\$95.00**.

We strive to provide accurate refractions. If you are unsatisfied with your refraction, we offer a no-charge recheck visit within the first 90 days of the refraction. (Contact Lens services & supplies are separate)

**Our office only accepts Vision Service Plan (VSP)**. If you have any other vision insurance, you may complete the Comprehensive Eye Exam with our office and choose to hold the Refraction/Vision portion of the eye exam and utilize your vision insurance where it is accepted. If you choose to complete the Refraction/Vision portion with our office, you will be responsible for the **\$95.00 Refraction fee**. Listed here is an example list of Vision Insurances that our office **DO NOT** accept:

Blue View, Eyemed, March Vision, Medical Eye Service, Spectera, etc.

#### Attention MediCAL & Alameda Alliance Patients:

- **MediCAL will only cover Refraction/Vision exam once every 2 years.**
- **Alameda Alliance has a separate Vision Insurance, March Vision. Please contact March Vision for a list of accepted providers/doctors.**



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