Information about Refractions

Notice to Medicare Patients

Unfortunately, Medicare will not pay for the refractions your ophthalmologist or optometrist performs – even if the test is conducted for medical purposes. For that reason, patients will be charged for refractions. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Here is a copy of Medicare’s regulation regarding refractions (Benefit Policy Manual 100.01, section 90 at [www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/Downloads/bp102c16.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/Downloads/bp102c16.pdf)):

“Routine physical checkups; eyeglasses, contact lenses, and eye examinations for the purpose of prescribing, fitting, or changing eyeglasses; eye refractions by whatever practitioner and for whatever purpose performed…are not covered.”

About Refractions

**What happens:** The patient is presented a series of lenses in graded powers to determine which give the clearest vision; the code includes the prescription resulting from the test.

**Code:** CPT 92015, Determination of refractive state

**Fee:** Never covered by Medicare

**Medicare status:** Uncovered (and so never paid)