



### **Please Read Before Your Eye Exam**

Regular eye examinations benefit your well being for a lifetime. It is important for you to understand your insurance and how it applies to your visits with us. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to know what your own medical or vision insurance covers. We hope that this helps you to understand how today's visit will be submitted to your insurance.

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

**Routine Eye Examination** – 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 eyeglasses or contact lenses. Dr Mandese screens the eyes for disease and finds *no medical problems*. Glasses and contact lens prescriptions may be updated.

**Medical Eye Examinations** – A "medical eye examination" takes place when 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 Dr Mandese finds during the examination. Examples that would necessitate your visit being submitted to your medical insurance include headache, diabetes mellitus, dry eyes, allergies, glaucoma, cataracts, macular degeneration, eye muscle imbalance and many more.

**Refraction** – A refraction is the vision test that determines your best corrected visual acuity with eyeglasses. This is a measurement that Dr Mandese uses a phoropter that holds corrective lenses in front of your eyes. While looking at the eye chart, the lenses are adjusted until the clearest vision is achieved. This test is performed on your first visit with us (excluding emergency eye care), your annual visit, and anytime that your vision drops significantly. The refraction is a vital test to the care of your eyes because it allows for assessment of your current eye health and the detection of eye diseases. With it, we may provide you with a prescription for updated glasses or it may be required by Medicare, Tricare or other insurance plans to determine if you qualify for particular eye procedures such as cataract or laser eye surgeries.

#### **Who pays for a refraction?**

Even though this is a vital test to the care of your eyes, the refraction is a non-covered service through Medicare, Tricare, and most insurance plans. Unfortunately, they do not differentiate between "medical refractions" and refractions performed solely for the purpose of providing glasses. We are required to charge for this service regardless of whether insurance will pay. The charge is \$30 for this test that you will be asked to pay at the time of your visit. As a courtesy to our patients, we file this charge to the insurance companies. If your insurance plan should reimburse our office for this test, we will refund your fee. This is a routine charge at all medical and surgical optometrist and ophthalmologists offices. If you wish to forego the refraction, please inform us *BEFORE* we begin doing any testing of your eyes.

**I understand the difference between routine and medical eye examinations and the potential implications of these differences on which type of insurance gets billed and the potential for fees that may include co-pays, deductibles, and/or co-insurance fees. I understand that I am responsible for any of these fees that my insurance does not cover. I further understand that a refraction is an important test that I may need, and if so, that I will be responsible to pay for this test.**

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **INFORMED CONSENT FOR DILATION OF EYES**

In order to more fully examine your eye health, it is necessary that drops be used to dilate your pupils. This allows us to obtain a stereoscopic view of the retinas of your eyes, while at the same time affording study of a greater area of the retina than normally available through a non-dilated pupil. Retinal tears or detachments may be missed if only a non-dilated exam is performed. Although you may experience some light sensitivity and blurred vision of the eyes, the benefit far outweighs the risks of performing the procedure. Temporary sunglasses will be provided for your convenience. Your eyes may remain dilated for up to three hours. Some patients may have difficulty driving after the procedure. If you have any questions, please talk to the doctor about it during your exam.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_