

Routine Eye Exams, Medical Eye Exams and Refractions

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. It is also your responsibility to know your plans and its benefits.** 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 Mack Eye Center. 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 exam without any medical eye problems and there are no symptoms except for visual changes. This type of problem can be corrected with glasses or contact lenses.

Medical Eye Examinations – Your visit will be coded as a "medical eye examination" whenever you are being evaluated/treated for a medical condition, such as dry eye or cataracts. These things often aren't determined until the doctor sees you.

Vision Service Signature Plan (VSP) and other vision plans, such as Eyemed – if you have a vision plan, we need to be aware of this coverage prior to your exam. Vision insurance only covers routine eye exams. If you determine that you have vision coverage after your exam has been completed, we will not bill them, but will happily provide you with the financial documentation needed for independent filing.

What is a Refraction?

A refraction is a vision test that determines your best corrected visual acuity with eyeglasses. This is a measurement that the doctor or technician takes with an instrument called a phoropter. It holds corrected lenses in front of your eyes. You may hear the doctor/technician ask you, "which is better... lens one or lens two?" **This test is not covered by medical insurance, even if it is medically necessary.**

The charge for this service is **\$55.00**. This is a routine charge for all Medical and Surgical Ophthalmologists' offices. If you wish to forego this test, please inform us **BEFORE** we begin doing any testing. **Please note: the \$55 fee will be collected at the time of service, and there are no exceptions.**

We cannot reverse medical claims and rebill vision plans so the patient has the refraction covered or the exam has a deductible as billing both insurances as primary coverage is a fraudulent billing practice and can result in termination of our insurance contracts.

I understand the difference between routine and medical eye examinations. I understand that depending on the type of exam I have the bill, it may go to either my Medical or my Vision insurance (if you have a vision plan). I understand that fees will apply, and I will be responsible for what is not covered by insurance.

Patient Signature: _____ **Date** _____