

The Eye Team, PC

MEDICAL EXAMS VS. VISION EXAMS

We often have patients present for a vision exam but actually need a medical exam. Both are very different in terms of the services and fees, and it's important for our patients to understand these differences.

Vision exams are designed to determine a prescription for glasses and/or contact lenses and to provide a routine wellness evaluation of the health of the eyes in a healthy patient that has no particular problems or symptoms. They do not cover any advice, treatment, diagnosis, or referrals for medical issues. Conversely, medical exams are designed for when you have a medical problem that affects the eyes; many times the patient is unaware of the medical problem, and it is uncovered during the exam.

****Examples of medical conditions would be diabetes, cataracts, dry eye, headaches, floaters, allergies, macular degeneration, infections, or glaucoma.

When a medical problem that affects your eyes is present, we must bill the exam as a medical exam, not a vision exam. Accordingly, medical fees will apply, and medical insurance will be billed and any co-pays or deductibles will need to be met. **Vision exams and plans do not cover any medical issues**. Any estimates we've received from your insurance plans are not guarantees of payments, and you will ultimately be held responsible for the fees.

Please understand there is no way to know prior to your examination which type of exam you will need today or what the fees will be. Many diseases of the eyes do not have symptoms or mimic the need for new glasses. If we are on your insurance company's panel we will file the claims for you. In the event we do not accept your plan, we will provide you with an itemized receipt so that you may file the claim with your plan yourself for reimbursement.

***OUR OFFICE DOES NOT MAKE THESE RULES...
THEY ARE MADE BY THE INSURANCE COMPANIES.
WE MUST COMPLY WITH THEM,
EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE INSURANCE.***

Our office has advanced diagnostic equipment, including visual field testing, ocular coherence tomography, corneal topography, meibography, fundus photography, and tear osmolarity. Our doctors may order extra medical tests to document or to help determine what may or may not be causing any issues found at your exam. Again, medical coverage/copays/deductibles will apply.