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REFRACTION POLICY

- What is a refraction?

Refraction is the testing performed by our ophthalmic technicians used to determine the eye's refractive error, or need for corrective glasses and/or contact lenses. It is an important test that allows us to measure vital signs of the eye.

- Why is it necessary?

Refraction is sometimes necessary depending on the patient's diagnosis and/or complaints presented that day. For example, if a patient is experiencing blurred vision or a decrease in visual acuity on the eye chart, a refraction would be needed to see if this is due to a need for glasses or due to a medical problem. A refraction is also necessary to show to insurance the need for cataract surgery. We must show that your vision cannot be simply improved with a glasses prescription. The refraction is an essential part of an eye exam; however, Medicare and most insurance plans DO NOT cover it.

- What if I do not want the refraction?

You may decline this part of the exam. Please notify the technician **PRIOR** to the beginning of the exam that you want this step skipped. **IMPORTANT:** If you decline, we may not be able to determine the cause for your decrease in vision.

- How much is it?

Our policy is to charge the standard \$30 fee for this procedure. This is in addition to the office visit copay and/or deductible which is set by your insurance carrier. The refraction fee is due at the time services are rendered. We will bill your insurance according to the individual contracted fee schedules. However, if your insurance pays the fee we will gladly refund you this prepaid \$30 amount upon receiving notice from your insurance.

NOTE: This fee is due and payable whether or not you receive a written glasses prescription. Sometimes the change is not significant enough to warrant the cost of purchasing new glasses and a new prescription will not be given. The fee covers the technician's time and effort in achieving this process. **This fee will not be charged more than once per year.**