

REFRACTION & TESTING NOTICE

In children, uncorrected refractive error can cause amblyopia (a condition where one or both eyes never learn to see well and can result in permanent visual disability and blindness) and strabismus (a condition where eyes do not align properly.) A test called a refraction determines what the refractive error is for a child and is used to help to treat these conditions. Insurance companies do not always cover this medically necessary test. The purpose of this notice is to inform you that:

1. **Refractions are medically necessary**
2. **Refractions may change as your child grows or as they relax into their glasses**
3. **If the refraction is denied by your insurance, you will be responsible for it (up to \$50)**

At Children's Eye Care, **we perform testing that is medically necessary to complete our examination and diagnose your child.** None of our testing is considered optional and while testing is often covered by health insurance, it is not always. In the instances where testing is not covered by your insurance plan, you will be responsible for the cost.

WHAT IS A REFRACTION?

The American Academy of Ophthalmology defines a refraction as "the measurement of the eye's focusing characteristics and the determinant of a prescription." A prescription has three main components: sphere, cylinder and axis.

Undiagnosed refractive error is the leading cause of vision loss in children according to the American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS). Diagnosing and appropriately treating any error requires a cycloplegic refraction.

DO WE NEED A CYCLOPLEGIC REFRACTION?

Yes. The American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus **STRONGLY** recommends children undergo cycloplegic refractions (i.e. refractions under dilation). Refractions under dilation allow for accurate measurements because they remove the ability of the child to accommodate (change focus).

WHY DO SOME INSURANCE PLANS NOT COVER IT?

It is not completely clear to us why some insurance plans cover the charge and others do not. We encourage you to reach out to your insurance carrier and ask whether the charge will be covered. The CPT code for a refraction is 92015.

CAN I DECLINE THE REFRACTION?

Unfortunately, no. As stated, the refraction is medically necessary to diagnose and treat your child. Without a refraction, we would be unable to perform a complete exam.

WHAT OTHER TESTING WILL BE DONE AT THE APPOINTMENT?

The most common test code we use is 92060 (Sensorimotor Exam) where we check for stereopsis (the ability for your child to see in three dimensions) and strabismus (a condition where eyes are not aligned properly). As mentioned, we do dilated refractions (92015) usually annually to check for uncorrected refractive error. Additionally, we use 92202 (extended ophthalmoscopy) to assess the health of the main seeing parts of the eye, including the optic nerve, macula, and retina. Other testing such as a photo of the back of the eye or an external eye condition, a B-Scan ultrasound, or an OCT may be required if there is a finding during the exam.

If you have any questions not answered above, please contact us at (970) 214-8175 or by email at info@childrensnoco.com

I have read and understand this Policy, and I accept responsibility for any payments that become due as outlined above, whether covered by my insurance or not.

Patient or Person with Authority to Consent

Date