

bulletin



Bulletin Number 4345	Date September 27, 1999	Direct inquiries to
Distribution Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, Laboratories		Ministry of Health Processing Office (address below)

Subject Billing Patients for Intraocular lenses for Cataract Surgery

When a foldable or rigid intraocular lens is implanted in conjunction with a surgical cataract extraction performed in a hospital, Independent Health Facility (IHF) or physician clinic, the provision of the lens is part of the insured service and its cost cannot be billed to the patient. Hospitals or physicians cannot bill patients for the difference in cost between the foldable and rigid lenses.

The foldable lens is considered medically beneficial to many patients because it requires a smaller incision, results in less post-operative pain, promotes more rapid visual recovery, and provides less post-operative activity restrictions. The rigid and foldable lenses are considered clinically interchangeable and either lens must be provided by the hospital, IHF or physician clinic at no charge to the patient.

This bulletin clarifies an earlier memorandum dated May 25, 1998 from the Ministry to hospitals.

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