

Bulletin



Bulletin Number	Date	Direct inquiries to
4415	November 1, 2004	Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Processing Office
Distribution		(address below)
Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

Subject: Changes to Eye Care Services for Patients Aged 20 to 64 Years

Effective **November 1, 2004**, routine eye exam services provided by both physicians and optometrists for patients aged 20 to 64 years will no longer be insured. (This does not apply to optometrists on staff at hospitals where the service is provided by the hospital, except a service rendered to a person 20-64 years solely for the purpose of refraction.)

The following changes are also being implemented effective November 1, 2004

1. Patients aged 20 to 64 years who have medical conditions that require regular eye exams will now be eligible for a new insured eye exam service, a "major eye exam", provided by either an optometrist or a general practitioner once every 12 months. Ophthalmologists who provide this type of a service will use their existing fee codes.
2. Persons aged 20 to 64 years who are in receipt of benefits under either the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997*, *Ontario Works Act, 1997* or Family Benefits program will be eligible once every 24 months to receive a periodic oculo-visual assessment service provided by an optometrist or physician, unless they qualify for a major eye exam service. These services are not insured services but are government funded.

The information pertaining to which patients are eligible for these two new services and how to access them is detailed below.

Deleted Fee Codes

The following physician fee codes will no longer be insured for services rendered on and after November 1, 2004:

Office locations

Barrie 34 Simcoe St. Suite 102 L4N 6T4	Etobicoke 3300 Bloor St. W., Unit 142 M8X 2W8	Hamilton 119 King St. W P.O. Box 2280, Stn. A L8N 4C8	Kenora 220-808 Robertson St. P9N 1X9	Kingston 1055 Princess St. P.O. Box 9000 K7L 5A9	Kitchener 1400 Weber St. E. Unit B2 N2A 3Z8	London 217 York St., 5th Floor P.O. Box 5700 Station A N6A 4L6
Mississauga 201 City Centre Dr. P.O. Box 7020, Stn. A L5A 3M1	Newmarket 465 Davis Dr. Unit 108 L3Y 8T2	North Bay 101-447 McKeown Ave. P1B 9S9	North York 4400 Dufferin St. N M3H 6A8	Oakville Oakville Town Centre II 220 North Service Rd. W. L6M 2Y3	Oshawa Exec. Tower, Oshawa Centre. 419 King St. W. P.O. Box 635 L1H 8L4	Ottawa Fuller Building 75 Albert Street K1P 5Y9
Owen Sound 981 2nd Avenue E. N4K 2H5	Peterborough 550 Lansdowne St. W. K9J 8J8	St. Catharines 301 St. Paul St. Mezzanine Level L2R 3M8	Sarnia 452 Christina St. N. N7T 5W4	Sault Ste. Marie Roberta Bondar Place 70 Foster Dr., Ste. 100 P6A 6V4	Scarborough 2063 Lawrence Ave. E. M1R 2Z4	Sudbury 199 Larch St., Suite 801 P3E 5R1
Thunder Bay 435 James St. S., Suite 113 P7E 6T1	Timmins 38 Pine St. N., Suite 110 P4N 6K6	Toronto 47 Sheppard Ave. E. Suite 417 M2N 7E7	Windsor 1427 Ouellette Ave. N8X 1K1	Head Office P.O. Box 48 Kingston, ON K7L 5J3		

Family Practice and Practice in General (00)

A111 - Periodic Oculo-visual Assessment – aged 20 to 64 years (page A2)

A114 - Periodic Oculo-visual Assessment – additional assessment (page A2)

Ophthalmology (23)

A238 - Periodic Oculo-visual Assessment – aged 20 to 64 years (page A39)

A240 - Periodic Oculo-visual Assessment – additional assessment (page A39)

New Services for Patients Ages 20 to 64 Years with Medical Conditions Affecting the Eye

The following new **insured** services are effective November 1, 2004 for patients ages 20 to 64 years who have medical conditions that require regular eye exams:

Family Practice and Practice in General (00)

E077 – identification of a patient for a major eye exam and provision of a
“request for eye examination requisition” (page A2).....\$10.00

A115 – major eye exam (page A2).....\$41.30

A115 - Major Eye Exam:

Patients will be eligible to directly access an insured major eye exam service if they have one of the following medical conditions:

	Diagnostic Code(s)
i. diabetes mellitus, type 1 or 2	250
ii. glaucoma	365
iii. cataract	366
iv. retinal disease	361, 362
v. amblyopia	368
vi. visual field defects	368
vii. corneal disease	370, 376
viii. strabismus	378

Patients may also access this insured service if they have a valid “request for eye examination requisition” (see below) completed by another physician (other than the physician rendering the major eye exam service) or a nurse practitioner (RN(EC)).

Physicians claiming A115 must ensure that the claim includes either: one of the diagnostic codes appropriate to the patient’s medical condition as stated above or, in the case where the patient provides a valid requisition, the physician or RN(EC) claims submission number of the provider who completed the requisition in the referring number field.

Patients will be limited to one insured major eye exam service once every 12 months rendered by either a general practitioner or an optometrist. If services that would otherwise constitute a major eye exam service are rendered to the same patient more than once within the same 12 month period, the service remains insured and is payable at a lesser assessment fee.

Please refer to the attached revised Schedule page A2, dated November 1, 2004, for a complete description of the requirements for claiming for this service.

Note that there may be situations in which a physician who expects to render an uninsured oculo-visual exam to a patient aged 20 to 64 years, and the patient is diagnosed with glaucoma, cataract, retinal disease, amblyopia, visual field defects, corneal disease or strabismus as a result of the examination. In this situation, the service then becomes an insured major eye exam and should be billed to OHIP and not to the patient.

If as a result of the examination the physician is concerned that the patient may have undiagnosed diabetes mellitus, the physician should refer the patient to his or her primary care physician for diabetes testing. If the patient is subsequently diagnosed by a physician as having diabetes mellitus, this patient would then become eligible for insured major eye exams in the future (following the diagnosis).

E077 - Identification of a Patient for a Major Eye Exam

Patients who do not have one of the above medical conditions will also be able to access an insured major eye exam service if they have a valid “request for eye examination requisition”. Fee-for-service physicians (physicians who are not remunerated under a primary care alternative payment program) who make a determination that a patient requires a major eye exam service will be able to claim E077 to compensate them for making this determination and for completion of the requisition form. Note that the requisition form will be valid for up to five fiscal years (expires on March 31 of the fiscal year five years after the date of the requisition). In situations where the patient is seeking a major eye exam from an optometrist or general practitioner other than the one for whom the original requisition was provided, an additional E077 service will be insured within this time period.

A sample copy of the “Request for Major Eye Examination” form (form number 4347-84) is attached. Forms may be obtained on-line at: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/forms/form_menus/ohip_fm.html or directly from the ministry’s warehouse.

Please refer to the attached revised Schedule page A2, dated November 1, 2004, for a complete description of the requirements for claiming for this service.

Patients under age 20 years and over age 64 years continue to be eligible for periodic oculo-visual assessments once every 12 months. Fee codes A110/A237 and A112/A239 respectively should continue to be claimed for these services.

New Services for Ontario Works/Ontario Disability Support Program/Family Benefits Program Beneficiaries Ages 20 to 64 Years

The following new services are added to Appendix F (page 1F) of the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services effective November 1, 2004 (note that these services are government-funded, but not insured services):

- K065 - Periodic Oculo-visual Assessment is an eye examination rendered to patients between the ages 20 and 64 who are recipients of income support under the Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997.....\$39.15
- K066 - Periodic Oculo-Visual Assessment is an eye examination rendered to patients between the ages 20 to 64 who are recipients of income assistance or benefits under the Ontario Works Act, 1997.....\$39.15

Other Changes

Note that in addition to the delisting of some services and the addition of new services, other changes pertaining to eye care have also been made to the Schedule of Benefits. Specifically:

- A periodic oculo-visual assessment has been redefined (page GP- 14)
- A definition of “not eligible for payment” has been added to clarify that if an insured service is described as “not eligible for payment” the service remains insured and the amount payable is zero (page GP- 37)
- Appendix A has been modified to add that services rendered to persons aged 20 to 64 years solely for the purpose of refraction are not insured

Please review this information in the revised Schedule pages dated November 1, 2004 (attached).

Diagnostic Codes:

Two new diagnostic codes were recently added to OHIP’s list of diagnostic codes and one diagnostic code was redefined. The new diagnostic codes are:

721 – Other seronegative spondyloarthropathies
795 – Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Diagnostic code 362 has been redefined to:

362 - Hypertensive retinopathy and other retinal diseases not specifically listed

This Bulletin is a general summary provided for information purposes only. Physicians, hospitals and other health care providers are directed to review the *Health Insurance Act*, Regulation 552 and the Schedules under that regulation, for the complete text of the provisions. You can access this information on-line at:
www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/

A copy of a Fact Sheet outlining these changes is available on-line at:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/pub_menus/pub_ohip.html

Resources for patient information can be found at:
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohip/resources/resources_mn.html>

[Request for Major Eye Examination Form](#)