

WHAT IS A REFRACTION?

A refraction is a test that is done to measure your best possible vision. During the test, different lenses are placed in front of the eye to determine which lenses provide you the best possible vision. It is often an essential part of an eye examination and may be performed.

A refraction may be performed for one or many of the following reasons (this list is not all-inclusive):

1. To determine the best potential vision for each eye.
2. To establish a reference point, against which, the extent of any eye problems can be measured.
3. It is used to determine the correct prescription for glasses or contacts.
4. It is an important component of a comprehensive routine exam.
5. It is performed as part of the evaluation and monitoring of medical conditions such as diabetes, cataracts, glaucoma, or macular degeneration.
6. It is performed during pre-operative care, to aid in pre-operative planning.
7. It is performed during post-operative care, to optimize the post-surgical result.

Federal guidelines state that the office visit and the refraction are to be reported as two separate charges when submitting your services to Medicare and/or other insurances. Since a refraction is not considered a benefit of the Medicare Part B program, the provider has the right to bill the patient directly. ***Depending on your insurance benefits, you may be responsible for payment of the service.***

*Since 1992, under Section 1862 (a) (1) (A) of the Social Security Act Title XVIII – Health Insurance for the Aged and Disabled, **Medicare** has classified refractions as a **non-covered** benefit for patients. This is a Federal law.