



PROVINCIAL HEALTH COVERAGE OF OPTOMETRIC CARE

(AS OF MARCH 28, 2012)

PROVINCE	STATUS
British Columbia	The BC Medical Services Plan has limited coverage for optometrists' services, and optometrists may collect a reasonable co-payment from their patients. Routine examinations are covered annually for patients under age 19 and over 64. All patients are covered for clinically required services involving ocular disease, trauma or injury, systemic diseases associated with significant risk to ocular health (e.g. diabetes), and for patients taking certain medications that are associated with significant risk to ocular health.
Alberta	Children and youth under 19 yrs. and adults over 64 yrs. are covered for eye exams, partial exams, and defined procedures based on medical need - patients between the ages of 19 and 64 are covered for clinically necessary care (tear chemistry, anterior chamber, tonometry, colour vision, exam for low vision, computer assisted visual field test).
Saskatchewan	Children and youth under 18 yrs. are covered for one eye exam per 12 months and for repeat and partial exams. For all ages, coverage is provided for initial assessment and follow-up of ocular urgencies and emergencies. Also covered are: supplementary health beneficiaries, Family Health Benefits (FHB) beneficiaries, and seniors (65+) receiving Saskatchewan Income Plan (SIP) supplement.
Manitoba	Children and youth under 19 yrs. and adults over 64 yrs. are insured for one exam every two-year calendar block. Patients between 19 to 64 yrs. are no longer covered, except for clinical reasons. Health coverage includes complete and partial eye examinations; full threshold visual fields; tonometry and dilated fundus exam.
Ontario	The Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) insures basic eye examinations annually for persons under the age of 20 years and over the age of 65 years. Persons living with diabetes are insured for a basic eye examination annually. Persons between the ages of 19 and 65 are eligible for an insured basic eye examination either through a requisition from a physician or when presenting with an eye disease or disorder that has been designated as meeting the criteria for an insured service. Insured persons are eligible for insured partial assessments when clinically necessary. A clinically indicated automated visual field test is an insured service for a patient whose basic eye examination qualified as insurable.
Québec	Coverage is provided for ages 0-17 yrs. and 65 yrs. and over and includes: eye exam, tonometry / biomicroscopy, visual field test, contact lens exam in some circumstances, etc. A new service implemented May, 2009 is dilation of a diabetic patient or myopic patient of 5.00D and over. Ocular emergency covered for all ages but the diagnostic service only: treatment at the patient expenses.
New Brunswick	Coverage was fully de-insured July, 1992. Children on social assistance are covered.
Nova Scotia	A Comprehensive Eye Examination (CEE) for routine care is payable once in a two-year period for children under age 10 and those 65 years and older. A CEE is payable once per year for all ages in cases of clinical need e.g. patients with health conditions (such as diabetes), or on medications, that present a risk to ocular health. Partial examinations are covered up to six times per year for the diagnosis and treatment of ocular infection, allergy or inflammation and the removal of foreign bodies from the eye. Additional coverage exists for keratoconus, low vision assessments, punctual plug insertions and lacrimal dilation and irrigation.
Prince Edward Island	Never insured.
Newfoundland & Labrador	Coverage was fully de-insured in 1991.

(Every effort was made to ensure that the information above is accurate. Please consult your provincial health care ministry for more information.)