

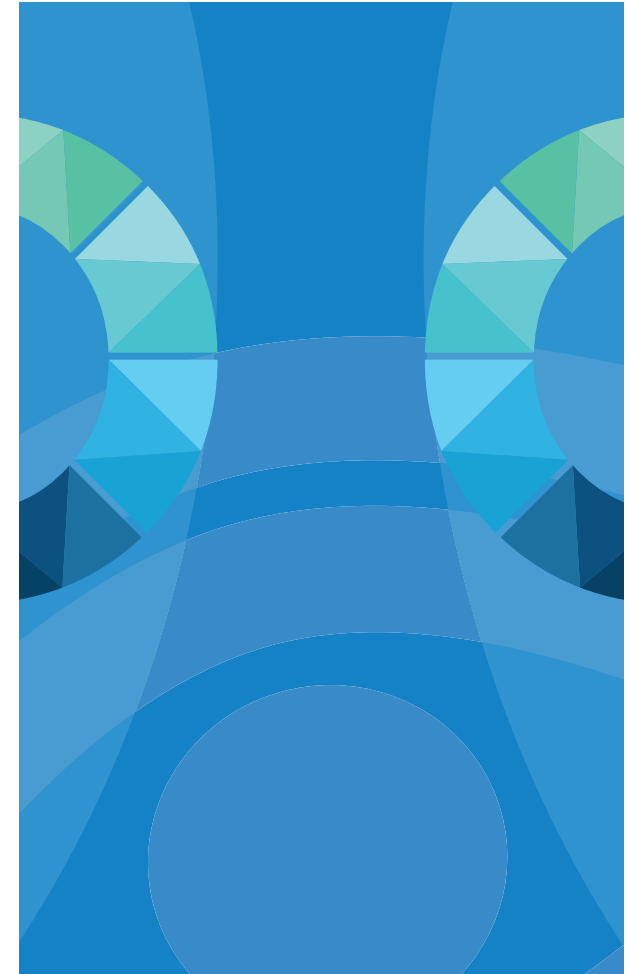
PROVINCIAL MEDICAL COVERAGE FOR EYE EXAMS (2018)

PROV	CHILDREN	ADULTS- (GENERALLY 18-64)	SENIORS	DIABETES
BC	Under 19	If ocular disease, systemic disease or medication associated with risk to ocular health	65+	Y
AB	Under 19	If medically necessary, or diabetes, glaucoma,	65+	Y
SK	Under 18	If urgent or emergent condition, diabetes	If urgent or emergent condition	Y
MB	Under 19	If medically necessary	65+	Y
ON	Under 20	If specified eye disease or disorder or MD requisition	65+	Y
QC	Under 18	If ocular emergency	65+	Y
NB	One-time eye exam and glasses coverage at 4	None	None	N
NS	Under 10 –once every 2 years	If health condition/ medication presents a risk to ocular health, infection, allergies, inflammation, foreign body	65+ once every 2 years	Y
PE	Once during kindergarten year and for red/dry eye	If red-eye, dry eye	If red eye, dry eye, diabetes	Y
NL	None	None	None	N

*Healthy eyes and clear vision
for all Canadians. For life.*

Optometrists

YOUR PATIENT'S PRIMARY
CARE PROVIDER FOR
EYE HEALTH AND VISION CARE



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES OPTOMÉTRISTES

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

An Optometrist's scope of practice includes the examination, diagnosis, treatment, management and prevention of disease and disorders of the eye, including:

- counselling patients following diagnosis (condition description, management options, expected outcomes and normal healing course);
- prescribing therapeutic medications for certain eye diseases (allergies, infections, inflammation, glaucoma¹);
- prescribing and fitting eye glasses and contact lenses as well as safety eyewear and subnormal vision devices;
- providing vision therapy and low-vision rehabilitation;
- educating patients on all aspects of eye health and vision care—how to preserve vision, safety, nutrition, digital eyestrain, visual ergonomics, etcetera.

Optometrists maintain records of treatment and counselling in a patient health record.

¹ Glaucoma prescribing is n/a in NS, NL and PEI

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Bachelor of Science degree, and a Doctor of Optometry degree from an accredited university's school of optometry.
- Entrance-to-practice exam administered by the Optometry Examining Board of Canada (OEBC).
- Education related to the care and treatment of eye disease as required for licensure by their College.

COLLABORATIVE, PATIENT-CENTRED AND ACCESSIBLE CARE

- Optometrists are committed to providing care that meets their patient's needs and preferences as a core component of overall good health.
- Optometrists work collaboratively with other health care providers to manage eye disease, providing rehabilitative treatment and timely referrals.
- Available for consultations with a quick response time, there are approximately 6,000 Optometrists across Canada, located in almost every community. They practice in a range of settings, including: private practice, clinics, community health centres, academia and industry.

REFERRALS

When to refer your patient to an Optometrist

Children:

between six and nine months of age
again between two and five years of age
annually after starting school

Seniors (65+) who have not had an eye examination in the last year

Patients with diabetes – to check for diabetic retinopathy, serum glucose-related refractive changes or neuropathies

Patients with systemic disease with ocular complications – e.g., hypertension, thyroid disease, rosacea, arthritis, and MS

Patients with sudden visual acuity changes or visual disturbances

Patients presenting with a complaint of red eye(s) who need slit lamp diagnosis – conjunctivitis, uveitis, keratitis, corneal ulcer, allergy, episcleritis, scleritis or dry eye syndrome

Any patient who has not had an eye examination in the last two years.