

**October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012**

**Optical Services Fee Schedule**

**Supports for Independence, AISH,  
Children's Services and Child Health  
Benefit**



**COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS  
OF ALBERTA**

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Your Vision, Our Focus

Schedule B					Benefit Code	Single Vision	Bifocal	Trifocal
<b>Basic Services Fee Schedule</b>								
Lenses	Single Vision	\$33.12	x	2	1010	\$66.24		
	Bifocal	\$56.71	x	2	1010		\$113.42	
	Trifocal	\$76.82	x	2	1010			\$153.64
Frame					1000	\$68.62	\$68.62	\$68.62
Basic Complete Spectacle Cost includes case						<b>\$134.86</b>	<b>\$182.04</b>	<b>\$222.26</b>
Glass Hardening Add:					1029	\$10.88	\$10.88	\$10.88
Scratch Resistant Coating on plastic lenses (\$3.81 per surface)					1030	\$15.24	\$15.24	\$15.24

Supports for Independence, AISH, Children's Services and Child Health Benefit recipients will receive coverage for complete spectacles based upon the above schedule. Basic services are defined as spherical lens powers up to and including + or - 8.00 diopters and cylinder lens powers up to and including 3.00 diopters. Bifocal/Trifocal basic lens service includes a flat top 25 mm or round segment. A supplementary item schedule covering additional extras follows. A case may only be supplied with complete spectacles. **Frames will be covered with a one year or longer warranty against breakage due to reasonable wear and tear. The practitioner will make every effort to repair or replace damaged frames within the warranty period.** Breakage resulting from patient neglect or abuse (non-reasonable wear and tear) may not be covered through the manufacturer warranty. Hardening is an additional charge of \$10.88 per pair of glass lenses, **although wherever possible, the College Member must use a plastic lens.** You may charge \$3.81 per surface (\$15.24/pair of lenses) to provide a scratch resistant finish to plastic CR39 lenses. These additional fees do not require special authorization. Progressive lenses may be claimed by the College member in the case of trifocal lenses when progressive lenses are the least cost alternative.

**Social Services requires AOA members to allow \$68.62 retail for a frame.** When a patient requests a frame where the cost exceeds the \$68.62 frame fee paid by the government department, the fee charged to the patient is determined by deducting \$68.62 from the retail price of the frame.

e.g. Retail frame price of \$130.00 less \$68.62 retail value for Social Services recipients, patient pays \$61.38.

Individuals 18 years or older will be allowed one pair of spectacles every 24 months, and under 18 years will be allowed one pair of spectacles every 12 months, unless the prescription changes by 0.50 diopters or more. In which case, only new lenses may be supplied.

Repairs and Replacement Parts			
Frame		Benefit Code	
Whole Frame	to a maximum of	3000	\$68.62
Front	to a maximum of	3010	\$49.53
Temple	to a maximum of	3020	\$21.37
Top	to a maximum of	3030	\$21.37
Hinge (each)	to a maximum of	3040	\$7.87
Lens: Benefit Code 3050 (Left) or 3060 (Right)			
Single Vision		1010	\$33.11
Bifocal		1010	\$56.71
Trifocal		1010	\$76.82
Solder (Single)		3070	\$11.26
Drill out broken screw		3080	\$4.48

Frames must be supplied with a guarantee against breakage for one year or longer. Repairs and replacement parts not covered under manufacturer's warranty must be authorized by the Ministers in advance.

Frame repairs may not exceed the value of a replacement frame (i.e. \$68.62).

**Schedule B****SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS**

Only supplementary items that meet specific criteria, which are prescribed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist will be allowed to be charged to Social Services as additional charges.

<b>Tints and Coatings Additional Charges</b>								
Prescribed by ophthalmologist or optometrist			Add per lens to basic price					
	<b>Benefit</b>		<b>Single Vision</b>		<b>Bifocal</b>		<b>Trifocal</b>	
	<b>Code</b>		Plastic	Glass	Plastic	Glass	Plastic	Glass
Photogray	1300	Add		\$8.01		\$13.55		\$19.67
Transition	1350	Add	\$36.66		\$43.76		\$62.64	
Polarized Grey & Brown	1400	Add	\$40.07	\$40.43	\$43.71	\$60.97		
G-15	1410	Add	\$6.23	\$10.65	\$6.23		\$6.23	
Grey 1, 2, 3	1420	Add	\$6.23		\$6.23		\$6.23	
Pink 1, 2	1430	Add	\$6.66		\$6.66		\$6.66	
Yellow	1440	Add	\$6.66		\$6.66		\$6.66	
Solid tint or coating	1500	Add	\$6.21		\$6.21		\$6.21	
Bleach Tint	1532	Add	\$6.00		\$6.00		\$6.00	
AR Multilayer	1700	Add	\$24.40	\$19.78	\$24.40	\$19.78	\$24.40	\$19.78
Nikon, Crizal, UTMC	1720	Add	\$33.43		\$33.43		\$33.43	
Remove Coating	1730		\$6.56		\$6.56		\$6.56	
UV Protection	1740	Add	\$7.83		\$7.83		\$7.83	

**Tinting:** When necessary and prescribed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. A written clinical rationale must be provided on the billing form. In all cases, the tint supplied shall be of the least expensive capable material and process of providing the intended effect.

The following are the only acceptable criteria for prescribing tints:

- Aphakia (pseudo aphakia);
- kerato-conjunctivitis (chronic);
- iritis;
- xerosis of cornea (mild chronic);
- adverse effects of prescribed drugs; and
- partial aniridia (surgical or congenital).

**SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS – SERVICES NOT COVERED IN THIS CONTRACT**

Only supplementary items not covered as Services in this Contract, that meet specific clinical criteria that a prescribing optometrist or ophthalmologist believe should bring a Client under the purview of the Services in this Contract (example: optometric services not covered under this Agreement) will be allowed and billed as an additional fee. These supplementary items must be prescribed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist supported by clinical rationale, and approved by the Ministers' Representative prior to approval for payment.

**Schedule B**

<b>Additional Extras not covered by Basic Service Schedule</b>									
Prescribed by ophthalmologist or optometrist				Add per lens to basic service fees					
		Benefit		Single Vision		Bifocal		Trifocal	
		Code		Plastic	Glass	Plastic	Glass	Plastic	Glass
Sphere between 8.00 & 12.00		1100	Add	\$10.60	\$10.60	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$11.80	\$11.80
Sphere between 12.25 & 16.00		1160	Add	\$16.55	\$16.55	\$17.71	\$17.71	\$17.71	\$17.71
Sphere over 16.00		1110	Add	\$24.80	\$24.80	\$26.01	\$26.01	\$26.01	\$26.01
Cylinder between 3.12 & 6.00		1170	Add	\$10.93	\$10.93	\$10.93	\$10.93	\$10.93	\$10.93
Cylinder above 6.00		1120	Add	\$16.39	\$16.39	\$16.39	\$16.39	\$16.39	\$16.39
Prism in distance up to 3.00		1130	Add	\$7.28	\$8.74	\$7.28	\$8.74	\$7.28	\$8.74
Prism in distance over 3.00 or crossed prisms		1140	Add	\$10.93	\$12.57	\$10.93	\$12.57	\$10.93	\$12.57
Special Base Curves		1150	Add	\$11.69	\$11.83	\$14.48	\$15.57	\$16.67	\$17.76
Bicentric Grinding (Slaboff)		5000	Add			\$72.55	\$81.96		

<b>Hi-Index Plastic and Glass Additional Charges</b>									
Prescribed by ophthalmologist or optometrist				Add per lens to basic service fees					
		Benefit		Single Vision		Bifocal		Trifocal	
		Code		Plastic	Glass	Plastic	Glass	Plastic	Glass
Polycarbonate 1.58		1200	Add	\$9.45		\$18.90		\$36.61	
1.60 index material Rx 6.00D or greater		1210	Add	\$30.70		\$47.04			
1.60 index aspheric Rx 6.00D or greater		1220	Add	\$48.41					
1.67 index Rx Over 10.00 D		1225	Add	\$47.80					
1.70 index glass Rx Over 10.00 D		1230	Add		\$32.01		\$103.00		
1.80 index glass Rx Over 12.00 D		1240	Add		\$73.49				

**High Index Lenses:** In all cases of fabrication of high index lenses, the glass or plastic shall be of the least expensive material capable of providing the proper refraction. In addition to being prescribed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist, the prescription must meet the minimum criteria in any meridian of plus or minus 6.00 diopters. Written clinical rationale must be provided on the billing form.

**Anti-Reflection Coating:** Allowed on high index lenses only and must be prescribed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. In all cases, the anti-reflection coating shall be of the least expensive process capable of providing the intended effect. Written clinical rationale must be provided on the billing form.

**Bicentric Grinding (Slaboff) Lens:** When necessary and prescribed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. The prescription must meet a minimum of plus or minus 2.00 diopters difference between eyes. Patients who receive a bicentric grind lens will not be entitled to ophthalmic services which requires two pairs of eyeglasses (i.e. distance and near) instead of bifocals or contact lenses.

**Schedule B****Contact Lenses****Initial Contact Lenses:**

The Ministers will pay for rigid gas permeable, soft, or piggyback contact lenses if prescribed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist for the following medical conditions. Written clinical rationale must be provided on the billing form by the College Member.

1. Aphakia (post cataract surgery);
2. Corneal irregularities; or
3. Astigmatism (which is inadequately corrected by eye glasses).
4. Refractive errors in excess of plus or minus 7.00 diopters in any meridian.

**Note:** Where back-up eyeglasses are provided for proper eye hygiene, fees will be billed to the Ministers at the rates specified in this Contract for initial eyeglasses.

**Replacement of Contact Lenses:** Contact lenses may be replaced for the conditions noted in items 1 to 4 directly above, according to the terms specified in this agreement when there is a written prescription from an ophthalmologist or optometrist, and the rationale for replacement is documented in the request for prior approval to the Ministers representative under section 4.4 of this agreement.

**Schedule C****Prescription Guidelines with a  $\pm 0.50$  Change in Power:****Change in Prescription Calculation Eligibility Criteria**

<b>Base Rx</b>				<b>New Rx</b>			
<b>od</b>	+3.50	-1.25	140	<b>od</b>	+3.75	-1.00	140
<b>os</b>	+2.00	-0.75	035	<b>os</b>	+2.25	-1.25	035
<b>Add</b>	+1.25			<b>Add</b>	+1.50		

**Change:**

Distance:

od	+0.25	+1/2(+0.25)	=	+0.37
os	+0.25	+1/2(-0.50)	=	0.00

Near:

od	+0.25 (Add)	+0.37	=	+0.62
os	+0.25(Add)	+0.00	=	+0.25

**Qualification:**

Based on the above-calculated change in Rx, this person would be eligible for:

- No replacement of lenses in their distance glasses; and
- Replacement of the right lens only, in their close vision (reading) glasses. The change in the left lens is only 0.25 diopter.

However, if this person only had bifocals, then they would be eligible for:

- Replacement of the right lens only.

## **Additional Requirements of the Agreement**

### **First Time Wearers**

First time wearers of ophthalmic appliances will not be eligible unless their prescription is equal to or greater than **+0.50** diopters.

### **Two Pairs of Eye Glasses (One Pair for Distance and One Pair for Near)**

Two pairs of eyeglasses may be provided at one time (one pair for distance and the other pair for near) instead of one pair of bifocal eyeglasses. Consultation must take place with the prescribing ophthalmologist or optometrist and must be supported with written clinical rationale.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Members will provide to the Association any and all original records created, obtained and maintained pursuant to this Agreement that are requested under the access provisions of the Act, within seven calendar days of receiving notification from the Association, and that any person who willfully destroys any records subject to the Act with the intent to evade a request to records, is guilty of an offence under the Act.

Members shall make sure that any information identifying a client is not disclosed to any other person without the consent of the Minister, or the patient or patient's guardian. This includes information received from the Department of Human Resources and Employment and/or any other Department of the Government of Alberta. This includes information obtained by the Association's members, its agents or employees while delivering services under this Agreement. Members shall comply with this clause, even after the Agreement ends, until the Minister indicates differently in writing.

Members shall ensure that information that is to be used to make a decision that directly affects the individual be both complete and accurate, and shall protect the confidentiality and privacy of all personal information made available to, or collected for, this Agreement.

In the event that a member becomes aware of a breach of any of these terms or conditions, the member shall immediately notify the Association in writing.

### **Audits**

The Minister, at his discretion, may conduct or request the Association and/or his Agent to audit records and expenditures of its members, at no cost to the Minister

### **Insurance**

Every licensed member of the Association, at his/her own expense, shall obtain professional liability insurance in a form satisfactory to the Minister and, in accordance with the Insurance Act of Alberta, in an amount not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence.

Every licensed member of the Association shall also, at his/her own expense, insure his/her operations under a contract of either Comprehensive or Commercial Liability, in accordance with the Insurance Act of Alberta, in an amount not less than \$2,000,000 per occurrence, insuring against bodily injury, personal injury and property damage including loss of use thereof, and extend to include blanket written contractual liability, product and services from their operations and employees as additional insured.