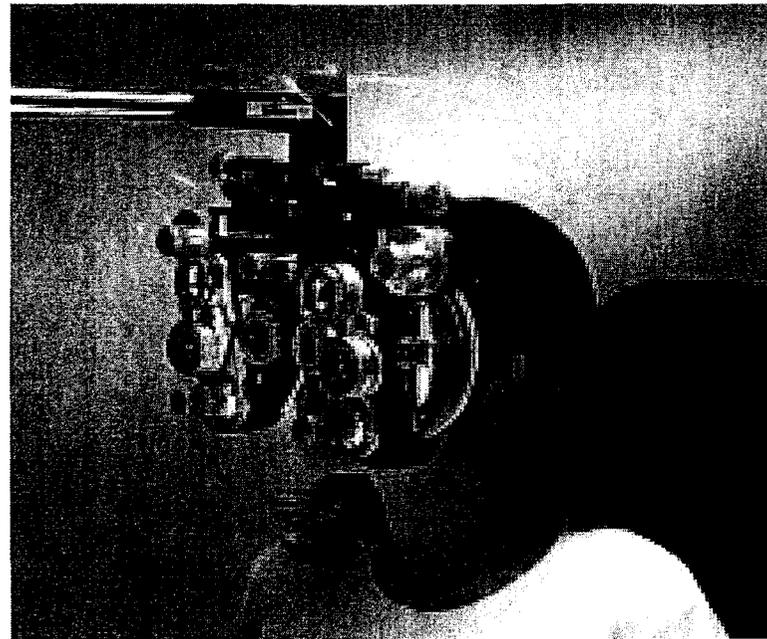


Better 1 or Better 2?

What is a Refraction and
Why do I have to pay for it?



Refractions

- The photo you just saw was of a typical patient seated in front of a typical phoropter (pronounced: fore-op-tur).
- This is the device we use to determine your prescription for glasses – or part of your prescription for contact lenses.

Why Do I Have To Pay For It?

- CMS, the department of the federal government that controls Medicare and Medicaid, has decided that refractions are not a payable part of an eye exam.
- CMS, directly under control of the US Congress, has determined this is a “non-covered” service. That means you have to pay for that portion of the eye exam.

What Does It Do?

- This instrument determines your need for lenses to correct your refractive error, also referred to as your refraction, or your eyeglass prescription.
- This is the part of the exam where the doctor, or other staff member flips various lenses inside the phoropter and asks questions like “Better 1 or Better 2?”. We keep asking these questions until we have helped you achieve the best possible vision.

Why Don't We Tell You About It During The Exam?

- Many of our colleagues have stopped the exam to say “this part is not covered by insurance – you have to pay for this.” The feedback they received from patients was not pleasant.
- Most of our patients would be disappointed if we completed the exam but a prescription was not offered, so we proceed, unless you tell us to stop.

Repeat That Again, Please?

- Since CMS believes your prescription is not part of your eye exam, we have to charge you separately, or we are breaking our contract with the government.
- As many private insurance carriers adopt the policies of the federal government, many of our contracts with private insurance carriers require us collect the money from you, as well.

What Can Be Done About It?

- We believe this makes as little sense as buying a car and being told at the last minute that the steering wheel will cost extra.
- So, we recommend contacting your representatives in Washington. They are the only one who can make this change.

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to learn about
refractions.

Our current fee for this portion of the exam
is \$30.

