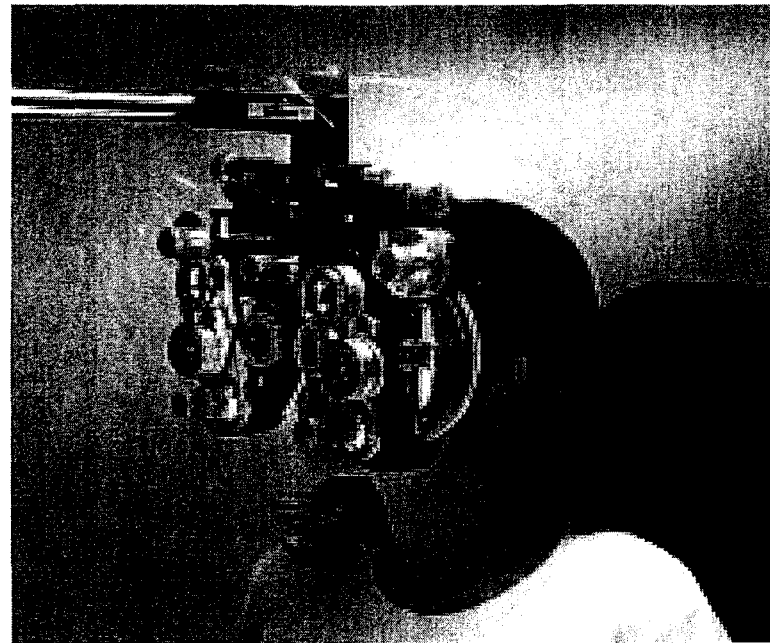


# Better 1 or Better 2?

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.

