



## Important Information on the Coding and Billing of your Pediatric Eye Exam

Thank you for choosing Northwest Eye for your child's eye care needs today. The Eye Care/Medical Industry is under the regulation of numerous and often-changing laws dictating the coding and reporting of each visit. The purpose of these laws is to ensure visits are of high quality. While we pride ourselves in meeting all of these quality control measures, it also means that we have to be very specific with the nature of each visit and code that visit specifically and accurately.

We ask that you take some time to fully understand the coverage and benefits of your insurance. Most patients' medical insurance plans either have a routine eye care component or the patient is enrolled in a separate vision insurance plan for routine eye care. This routine eye care is necessary for exams without cause and for patient's to have access to purchase glasses.

For an ophthalmology practice such as Northwest Eye, however, this can be confusing. Since we are an eye care provider we do offer routine eye care. However, we are first and foremost a medical practice that specializes in eyes and if an appointment is medical in nature we must bill it to your medical insurance.

With this in mind, **most Pediatric appointments are medical in nature** and will bill your medical insurance, **not** your eye care benefit/separate insurance plan.

Here are the most common reasons why your visit today is medical and will bill your medical insurance:

- The visit is referred from another doctor.
  - A referral means the purpose of the exam is a medical complaint or potential medical problem.
- This visit is the result of a failed vision test.
  - A failed vision test is also considered a referral and signals a medical complaint.
- This visit is the result of an underlying medical condition.
  - This can include, but is not limited to premature birth, autism, diabetes, eye alignment, double vision, headaches, structural, etc.
- A medical cause or diagnosis is discovered in the course of the appointment.

The only situation in which an exam would bill your routine eye coverage is if the exam is *without* a cause of chief medical complaint.

By signing below you confirm you have reviewed both your medical and vision insurance and understand which plan will be billed for today's appointment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_