

Overview of Provincial Coverage for Optometric Care		
Province	Eye Exam Coverage (including Social Income Support)	Relevant Links
British Columbia	<p>Eye examinations are covered for individuals aged 18 and younger, or 65 and older under the Medical Services Plan (MSP) if medically required. The criteria for medically required include ocular disease, trauma, or injury; systemic diseases associated with significant ocular risk (e.g. diabetes); medications associated with significant ocular risk. Direct requests to optometrists by a medical practitioner for an eye examination are also a benefit of MSP if there is a medical necessity for the examination. Refractive change with no other pathology does not meet the MSP medically required criteria for payment. The cost of eye examinations for refractive changes is the responsibility of the patient. Eye examinations are payable once every 24, 12, or 6 months depending on the diagnostic code and condition addressed.</p> <p>Adults aged 19 to 64 who receive income and disability assistance, or medical services only, receive an allowance of \$44.83 for an eye examination conducted by an optometrist every 24 months. New eyeglasses are also covered up to the ministry's maximum rate every year for those under 18 years of age, and every 3 years for those over the age of 18.</p>	Coverage under MSP Coverage under Assistance
Alberta	<p>Individuals aged 18 and younger, or 65 and older are eligible for one complete eye examination, one partial exam, and one diagnostic procedure per benefit year (July 1 to June 30) under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP). For individuals aged 19 to 65, the AHCIP provides full coverage for an eye exam that is deemed medically necessary by an optometrist as a result of trauma, a medical condition, or episode of illness.</p> <p>Adults aged 19-64 may be covered for vision services under the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) or the Alberta Adult Health Benefit (AAHB) for low-income Albertans. Coverage includes an eye exam and eye glasses for adults every 2 years, and eye glasses every year for dependents up to 18 years old.</p>	Coverage under AHCIP Coverage under AISH Coverage under AAHB
Saskatchewan	<p>Children under the age of 18 are covered for an annual eye exam with Saskatchewan Health coverage. Additional eye exams for children within the same year of an annual eye exam are covered for certain conditions. All individuals who have a confirmed diagnosis of type 1 or 2 diabetes are also covered for an annual eye exam, which includes tonometry, OCT, and photography. Routine follow-up exams are not covered for those with diabetes. Ocular emergencies (e.g. injury to eyes, presence of foreign bodies in the eye) are fully covered, including tonometry. For ocular emergencies, follow-up exams are covered. Visual field testing is covered for SK residents of any age on hydroxychloroquine, in conjunction with a High Risk Medication Consultation.</p> <p>Children under the age of 18, or seniors over the age of 64 covered by Supplementary Health Benefits are eligible for one annual eye exam. Adults aged 18-64 covered by Supplementary Health Benefits are eligible for one eye exam every two years. Eligibility for the Supplementary Health Benefits program include: government wards, inmates of provincial correctional institutions, residents of special care</p>	Coverage under Saskatchewan Health Payment Schedule for Insured Services by an Optometrist Coverage under Supplementary Health Benefits

	facilities who are eligible for the Senior's Income Plan, and those enrolled in income support programs including Assured Income for Disability, Income Support, and Employment Incentive.	
Manitoba	<p>Eye examinations are covered by Manitoba Health every two years for individuals aged 18 and younger, or 65 and older. Adults aged 19-64 are not covered for eye exams, except when warranted by medical conditions as determined by an eye care provider. Coverage for eye exams includes coverage for full threshold visual field test, tonometry test, and dilated fundus exam. Manitoba Health does not cover prescription glasses or contact lenses.</p> <p>Individuals on Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) are covered for an eye exam every two years, eyeglasses every three years, and new lenses if there is a significant change in eyesight. This benefit is available only after receiving EIA for three months, except for adults in the General Assistance category of EIA, who must be on EIA for six months before they are eligible for optical services.</p>	Coverage under Manitoba Health Coverage under EIA
Ontario	<p>Children aged 19 or younger are covered by Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) for one eye exam every 12 months, and any partial assessments needed. Adults aged 20 or older with an eligible medical condition are covered by OHIP for one eye exam every 12 months, and 2 follow-up partial exams. Eligible conditions include but are not limited to: diabetes, glaucoma, ocular drug toxicity, cataracts, and retinal disease. Adults aged 65 and older without an eligible medical condition are covered for one eye exam every 18 months, and 2 follow-up partial exams.</p> <p>Individuals receiving income support through Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) who are not otherwise covered by OHIP are covered for a routine eye exam once every two years. ODSP also offers assistance with the cost of new lenses and frames for all eligible beneficiaries every three years. For children, assistance with the cost of new lenses may be provided anytime there is a change in prescription.</p>	Coverage under OHIP Coverage under Ontario Works Coverage under ODSP
Québec	<p>Eye examinations are covered annually for individuals under the age of 18 or age 65 and older under the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ). Orthoptic exams for the diagnosis of strabismus among other conditions are covered only for children aged 16 or younger. Reimbursement of eyeglasses or contact lenses is covered for children under the age of 18. Individuals with a visual impairment who are registered with a recognized facility specialized in visual aids are covered for one eye exam every two years. Emergency examinations are covered for all individuals, however treatment is not. Retinal imaging and OCT are not covered.</p> <p>Adults aged 18-64 receiving support from a financial assistance program with a claim slip for at least 12 consecutive months are covered for one eye exam every two years. Those aged 60-64 who have been received a spouse's allowance under the Old Age Security Act for at least 12 consecutive months are also covered for one eye exam every two years. Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité covers a portion of the cost of</p>	Coverage under RAMQ Coverage under Social Assistance or Social Solidarity Program

	eye glasses or contact lenses for patients who have been in the Social Assistance Program for at least 6 consecutive months and immediately if the patient is in the social Solidarity Program.	
New Brunswick	<p>Children aged 18 and younger from low-income families are covered for an annual eye exam, lenses, and frames under the Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision Program. Children aged 4 are covered for an eye exam and corrective lenses at different rates depending on their insurance status as a benefit part of the Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision program.</p> <p>The Health Services Vision Program is available to individuals on social assistance, or those who have special health needs and who qualify for assisted health care. Adults aged 19 and over are covered for an eye exam once every two years under this program, including comprehensive eye exams, emergency exams, selected frames, and cases. Individuals diagnosed with diabetes are covered for an eye exam annually.</p>	<p>Coverage under Healthy Smiles, Clear Vision</p> <p>Coverage under the Health Services Vision Program</p>
Nova Scotia	<p>Eye examinations are covered by the Government of Nova Scotia through their Optometry Programs once every two years for children under the age of 10, and adults age 65 and older. Medically required eye care services are covered for all ages in cases of clinical need. Eye exams are eligible for coverage annually for children aged 10-19 who are highly myopic with symptoms of an increase in myopia, individuals who present with signs of eye pathology, individuals on medications that pose a risk to ocular health, and individuals diagnosed with health conditions (such as diabetes or glaucoma)</p> <p>Employment Support and Income Assistance will provide assistance for expenses of a routine eye exam for eligible individuals once every two years up to a maximum of \$64. The program also assists patients with the cost of eyeglasses.</p>	<p>Coverage under Optometry Programs</p> <p>Optometric Services Program</p> <p>Coverage under Income Assistance</p>
Prince Edward Island	<p>There is coverage for the retinopathy screening portion of an eye exam every 1 to 2 years for those diagnosed with diabetes. Children enrolled in a pre-kindergarten or kindergarten program qualify for coverage for one eye examination and one free pair of glasses if needed, through PEI Health and the Eye See Eye Learn program.</p> <p>Recipients of Social Assistance and Assured Income support are covered for one eye exam every 2 years. For those with eye conditions (such as diabetes, glaucoma, AMD), more frequent and comprehensive eye exams may be authorized.</p>	<p>Coverage under Eye See Eye Learn</p> <p>Coverage under Social Assistance</p>
Newfoundland & Labrador	<p>Children preparing for kindergarten who are not covered under private insurance are covered for one eye examination and pair of prescription glasses if need under the Eye See Eye Learn Program.</p> <p>Recipients of Income Support can receive up to \$55 of assistance towards the cost of an eye exam, and assistance towards the cost of glasses once every 12 months for children and once every 36 months for adults. Maximums towards the cost of glasses are set to \$125 for single vision lenses and \$175 for bi-focal.</p>	<p>Coverage under Eye See Eye Learn</p> <p>Coverage under Income Support</p>

Disclaimer: This document provides a summary of provincial coverage for eye examinations and is accurate as of **December 4, 2024**. Coverage policies are subject to change at any time without notice, at the discretion of the respective provincial health authorities. Users are encouraged to verify the most up-to-date information by consulting the official provincial government websites or by contacting the appropriate authorities directly. Links to provincial health authorities can be found in the 'Relevant Links' column.