

May 3, 2010

Pacific Blue Cross will accept prescriptions written by opticians

In March, the BC government announced changes to the Health Professions Act that took effect on May 1, 2010. Opticians will now be able to independently conduct sight-tests for healthy clients aged 19-65 eliminating the extra step of having a sight-test reviewed by a medical doctor who then issues a prescription.

Instead, a screening process will be put in place to ensure a client is healthy enough to be eligible for the sight-test, and is fully informed about the difference between a sight-test and an eye-health examination.

In response to the announcement that opticians be allowed to write prescriptions for eyewear, Pacific Blue Cross has adjusted our claiming guidelines. Effective May 1, 2010, we will allow claims for sight testing from these practitioners as part of the overall eye exam benefit where it is included coverage. We don't anticipate any impact to our clients as a result of this change

For more information, please contact your Plan Advisor or Account Manager.

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