

Bulletin



Bulletin Number 8090	Date April 1, 2005	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Processing Office (address below)
Distribution Optometrists		

Subject: MINOR ASSESSMENTS AND AUTOMATED VISUAL FIELD TESTS PROVIDED BY OPTOMETRISTS

General Description

A. Minor Assessments

B. Automated Visual Field (AVF) Testing

General Description

This bulletin is to provide information clarifying November 1, 2004 changes with regard to the provision of minor assessments and AVF tests. Effective immediately, optometrists' claims for the provision of these services are to be submitted in accordance with the requirements outlined in sections A and B of this Bulletin. These changes are effective immediately and retroactive claims submissions or claims correction for claims submitted as described below can be submitted for services rendered to insured individuals since November 1, 2004.

Note: All claims must be submitted within six months from the date of services including original claims and resubmitted claims in accordance with the Health Insurance Act. Claims submitted more than six months following the date of service are stale dated.

A. Minor Assessments

Minor assessments (V402), provided to individuals 19 years of age and under and 65 years of age and older, are limited to one per patient per day unless the patient presents in the optometrist's office in accordance with a second, separately scheduled appointment, with a condition that could not have been observed or diagnosed during the minor assessment conducted earlier that same day.

Office locations

Barrie 34 Simcoe St. Suite 102 L4N 6T4	Etobicoke 3300 Bloor St. W., Unit 142 M8X 2W8	Hamilton 119 King St. W P.O. Box 2280, Stn. A L8N 4C8	Kenora 220-808 Robertson St. P9N 1X9	Kingston 1055 Princess St. P.O. Box 9000 K7L 5A9	Kitchener 1400 Weber St. E. Unit B2 N2A 3Z8	London 217 York St., 5th Floor Station A N6A 4L6
Mississauga 201 City Centre Dr. P.O. Box 7020, Stn. A L5A 3M1	Newmarket 465 Davis Dr. Unit 108 L3Y 8T2	North Bay 101-447 McKeown Ave. P1B 9S9	North York 4400 Dufferin St N M3H 6A8	Oakville Oakville Town Centre II 220 North Service Rd. W. L6M 2Y3	Oshawa Exec. Tower, Oshawa Centre. 419 King St. W. P.O. Box 635 L1H 8L4	Ottawa Fuller Building 75 Albert Street K1P 5Y9
Owen Sound 1400 1st Ave. W Suite # 2. N4K 6Z9	Peterborough 550 Lansdowne St. W. K9J 8J8	St. Catharines 301 St. Paul St. Mezzanine Level L2R 3M8	Sarnia 452 Christina St. N. N7T 5W4	Sault Ste. Marie Roberta Bondar Place 70 Foster Dr., Ste. 100 P6A 6V4	Scarborough 2063 Lawrence Ave. E. M1R 2Z4	Sudbury 199 Larch St., Suite 801 P3E 5R1
Thunder Bay 435 James St. S., Suite 113 P7E 6T1	Timmins 38 Pine St. N., Suite 110 P4N 6K6	Toronto 47 Sheppard Ave. E. Suite 417 M2N 7E7	Windsor 1427 Ouellette Ave. N8X 1K1	Head Office P.O. Box 48 Kingston, ON K7L 5J3		

In the unusual circumstance where a patient does present for a second minor assessment as described above, a claim for payment is to be submitted through the manual review process (Claims Flagged for Manual Review – form 2404-84). The form is available from the ministry’s online forms catalogue at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/forms/form_menus/ohip_fm.html

Minor assessments (V408), provided to individuals 20-64 years of age, to re-assess an ocular condition(s) following an insured major eye examination (V409 or A115) are also limited as above. A V408 service provided for a purpose unrelated to the re-assessment of an ocular condition for which they are eligible for the major eye examination is not an insured service.

B. Automated Visual Field Testing (“AVF”)

The phrase “visual field examination” contained in the mandatory elements of a periodic-oculo visual assessment (POVA) and major eye exam (MEE) **does not** refer to and, therefore, **does not** include AVF testing. However, medically necessary AVF testing remains as an insured service. Claims for the provision of medically necessary AVF tests are to be submitted as minor assessments (V402 or V408) with a unique identifier. This identifier will assist in ensuring that claims submitted for AVF can be identified and billing patterns monitored. Where an AVF test is rendered, the diagnostic code **918** must be added to the claim for V402 minor assessment (under 19 and over 65) and to the V408 (20-64 minor assessment following a major eye exam).

An AVF test can be billed in conjunction with a POVA, MEE, or minor assessment where the POVA, MEE or minor assessment is therapeutically necessary in addition to the AVF test, and the requirements of the respective assessment have been satisfied. Where the AVF test is being provided solely as a diagnostic service (e.g. on referral by the primary eye care provider – optometrist/ophthalmologist), a minor assessment cannot be billed in conjunction with a POVA, MEE or minor assessment.

Note: Charges to patients for insured services (as clarified above) will be subject of Ministry recovery and reimbursement of patients whether the charge is an instance of inappropriate billing or “extra-billing”.