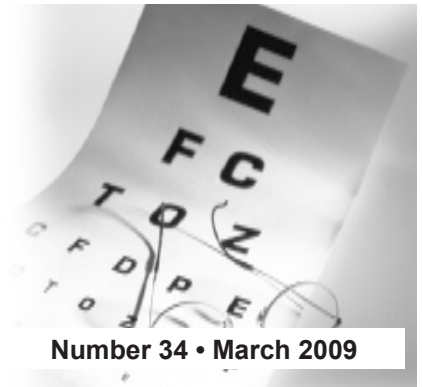


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Number 34 • March 2009

A BULLETIN FOR OPTICAL PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

Is your office prepared for the Optical Assistance for Seniors Program?

Effective April 1, 2009, Alberta Blue Cross is administering the Optical Assistance for Seniors Program on behalf of Alberta Seniors and Community Supports. Please ensure that your office is ready for this important program.

Eligibility

Eligibility for this program is based on annual income. Albertans ages 65 and over who have already applied for the Alberta Seniors Benefit or Dental Assistance for Seniors Program are automatically enrolled in this program.

Program participants are eligible for coverage of either \$115 or \$230 every three years for prescription eyeglasses. This program does not pay for contact lenses, eye surgery, eye exams, accessories, magnifying devices, eye medication, non-prescription sunglasses, or reading glasses not dispensed by an optical provider.

If your office offers the convenience of online claim submission, you can quickly and easily verify eligibility and coverage levels on behalf of your customers through the Alberta Blue Cross online claim system. Seniors can also verify their level of coverage by contacting Alberta Blue Cross Customer Services at 1-800-661-6995.

Enclosed for your reference is a supply of brochures providing more information about this program. Please recycle any old brochures your office may have on hand.

Claiming

For claims submitted online, your office will be paid directly for the amount covered by this program. Program participants are still responsible for any portion not eligible for coverage.

If your office does not provide online claim submission, please help seniors claim for reimbursement by assisting them to complete the *Receipt Submission Slip* for Group 101, including their name, Personal Health Number, telephone number and address. These slips are available on our web site at www.ab.bluecross.ca/gov_forms.html, and may be photocopied by your office as needed. Seniors must request reimbursement from Alberta Blue Cross within 12 months of the date of purchase and include their original receipt.

If your office has not already done so, you are encouraged to register for online claim submission with Alberta Blue Cross as soon as possible. Once you are registered, you can begin submitting claims online.

Alberta seniors will be informed of the convenience of online claims submission for optical benefits, thereby reducing their up-front out-of-pocket costs.

Please note that claims with dates of service on or after April 1, 2009 should be submitted to Alberta Blue Cross. Alberta Seniors and Community Supports will continue to process eligible claims with dates of service prior to April 1, 2009. Please remind your customers to send all claims for services prior to April 1, 2009 to Alberta Seniors and Community Supports as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact your
Optical Claims representative at:

780-498-8083 (Edmonton and area)
1-800-588-1195 (toll-free)



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