COVID-19 Resources for Optometrists and Optometric Practices

COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on optometry and the mode in which optometrists' practice. Since optometrists are designated as essential providers in SC, it will be up to the individual practitioner to take appropriate action to decrease the transmission of COVID-19 with seeing patients. Governor Henry McMaster has extended the state of emergency in South Carolina to April 27th. It is recommended in South Carolina that patients are only seen if they need urgent, non-routine care. Below are some examples of what you may consider as urgent:

- red eyes
- sudden loss of vision
- sudden onset of double vision
- ocular pain
- new flashes and floaters
- pre/post ops
- ocular trauma
- foreign body

Governor Henry McMaster's Executive Orders

2020-21 Official (PDF) | *Home or Work Order*
2020-20 Official (PDF) | *Authorizing Leave with Pay Due to Winter Weather on Feb. 21*
2020-19 Official (PDF) | *Lodging & Travel Restrictions for Individuals from High-Risk Areas*
2020-18 Official (PDF) | *Closure of Additional Non-Essential Businesses*

A link to older executive orders can be found HERE

SC Board of Examiners in Optometry

COVID-19 Recommendations

Telehealth Announcement - COVID-19

SC Specific Resource Information

Click here for state-by-state COVID-19 resources.

Click here for the latest updates from DHEC.

Financial Resources

Assistance for Small Businesses

Employee Time-off and Paid Leave

Student Loans

COVID-19 Tax Relief

COVID-19 Resources on Benefits.gov

AOA's COVID-19 Webinars

Dr. Jeff Michaels and other experts to address questions regarding COVID-19 federal crisis relief, including details on CARES, 7(a) loans, updated rules for Families First Act and more.

Click here *to access the COVID-19 Federal Laws and Financial Options for Optometry Part 2 webinar*.

What doctors of optometry need to know about just-enacted Federal crisis relief legislation, including details on CARES, loans, leave and more. **Click here** to access this part 1 of AOA's webinar. It is about 1 hour long and very informative.

Practice Resources

AOA COVID-19 Updates

AOA Excel Resources for AOA Members

AOA Guidance for Optometry Practices

COVID-19 Assessment Flowchart

Patient guide to contact lens wear during COVID-19.

CDC recommendations for personal protective equipment.

Disinfecting Practices

Healthcare Professional Preparedness Checklist

Nonpharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)

Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation

FAQs on Shortages of Surgical Masks and Gowns

Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take to Prepare for Coronavirus

Telehealth

Telemedicine Fact Sheet

Recorded Webinar: Medicare Telehealth Billing and COVID-19

Billing Telemedicine

VSP: For those who offer telehealth services, please remember that VSP covers certain telehealth services under their PEC and DEP Plus plans that may help you provide essential eye care services to patients in the weeks ahead. You can access this information in the Provider Reference Manual on VSPOnline. Optometrists must log into Eyefinity to get the telehealth codes covered by PEC and DEP Plus.

TYPE OF SERVICE	WHAT IS THE SERVICE?	HCPCS/CPT CODE	Patient Relationship with Provider
MEDICARE TELEHEALTH VISITS	A visit with a provider that uses telecommunication systems between a provider and a patient.	Common telehealth services include: • 99201-99215 (Office or other outpatient visits) • G0425–G0427 (Telehealth consultations, emergency department or initial inpatient) • G0406–G0408 (Follow-up inpatient telehealth consultations furnished to beneficiaries in hospitals or SNFs) For a complete list: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes	For new* or established patients. *To the extent the 1135 waiver requires an established relationship, HHS will not conduct audits to ensure that such a prior relationship existed for claims submitted during this public health emergency
VIRTUAL CHECK-IN	A brief (5-10 minutes) check in with your practitioner via telephone or other telecommunications device to decide whether an office visit or other service is needed. A remote evaluation of recorded video and/or images submitted by an established patient.	• HCPCS code G2012 • HCPCS code G2010	For established patients.
E-VISITS	A communication between a patient and their provider through an online patient portal.	• 99421 • 99422 • 99423 • G2061 • G2062 • G2063	For established patients.

CARES Act Passes Senate

Click here to read a summary of the CARES Act.

COVID-19 and Hydroxychloroquine

Click here to read an update from Diopsys.

Senator Lindsay Graham Update

Click here to read Senator Graham's update.

Please contact the SCOPA office with any additional questions or concerns.
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