

## Because EyeMed makes it simple to access the important eye care that diabetics need.

### Diabetic Eye Care benefit offered by EyeMed.

An important benefit for diabetics and their vision.



To help your employees with diabetes access the eye care they need, EyeMed now offers a Diabetic Eye Care benefit that provides ongoing vision care services for members diagnosed with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. Diabetic members can care for their vision needs conveniently with their eye care provider and now save on additional services to monitor their vision.

According to the American Diabetic Association, nearly 26 million people have diabetes in the United States and another 79 million fall into the category of prediabetes.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the total economic cost of diabetes in medical expenditures and lost productivity was estimated to be \$174 billion.<sup>2</sup> Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in adults ages 20-74.<sup>3</sup> It is a growing epidemic that carries the risk of glaucoma, cataracts and the most common diabetic eye disease, retinopathy.

Regular eye exams can help detect ocular diabetic changes early, prompting referral for treatment that can help lessen the risk of vision loss for diabetics. Awareness of the importance of regular eye care and making services affordable and convenient can help diabetic patients follow their doctors' recommendations.

### What services are included in the Diabetic Eye Care benefit?

- Office service visit and diagnostic testing once every six months, with optional copayment
- Member eye exam reminders

Diagnostic tests as determined necessary by the eye care professional may include gonioscopy, extended ophthalmoscopy, fundus photography or scanning laser. While members are free to visit an eye care provider of their choice and utilize coverage through their medical plans, these services are designed to give EyeMed members additional, convenient eye care options.

more

Visit [WhyEyeMed.com](http://WhyEyeMed.com) to learn more.

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## An EyeMed benefit enhancement that helps you help your employees.

Give your employees the benefits they need to make the right choices for their health. To learn more why EyeMed Vision Care is the right choice for your company and your employees, visit [WhyEyeMed.com](http://WhyEyeMed.com)

You can improve the chances of detecting the ocular complications of diabetes early through annual dilated eye exams. The American Optometric Association reports that between 12,000 and 24,000 people unnecessarily lose their vision yearly because of diabetes complications that can often be prevented through early detection and timely treatment.<sup>4</sup>

## EyeSiteOnWellness.com

EyeSiteOnWellness.com is a complimentary resource your employees can access anytime, anywhere. Featuring the EyeMed Wellness Library, the site makes it easy for you to help keep your employees informed and aware of the importance of regular vision care.

These materials are designed to provide general information regarding health care topics, do not constitute professional advice nor establish any standard of care, and are provided without representations or warranties of any kind. Eye care professionals do not take the place of your physician. Eye exams are not a substitute for regular physical exams by your medical doctor. Your treating eye care and other health care professionals are solely responsible for diagnosis, treatment and medical advice. The eye care professionals in your plan are independent practitioners who exercise independent professional judgment and over whom EyeMed has no control or right of control. They are not agents or employees of EyeMed. For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact your EyeMed Sales or Account Manager.

### Sources:

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC News Release, 26 January 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Winning at Work – Diabetes Facts, American Diabetes Association 2007 (<http://www.diabetes.org/in-my-community/programs/winning-at-work/winning-at-work-diabetes.html>).

<sup>3</sup> American Optometric Association (<http://www.aoa.org/x6814.xml>).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.



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