



Vermilion and Wainwright
www.prairievision.com

Important Update to Our Fees – Ensuring the Care You Deserve

Dear Valued Patient,

At Prairie Vision and Prairie Vision Vermilion we have always been committed to providing you and your loved ones with the highest quality eye care. Your trust and the health of your vision are at the heart of everything we do. We pride ourselves in utilizing the most up to date technology and tools to diagnosis, treat and screen for a large variety of eye diseases and vision disorders. Our doctors continuously pursue continuing education so we can offer specialty services such as vision therapy, scleral contact lens, specialty contact lenses, myopia management, glaucoma management, MacuMira treatment for macular degeneration and dry eye advanced treatment.

We are reaching out to share an important update regarding our fees, effective **February 10, 2025**. We have carefully considered this change, reflecting our profession's evolving challenges.

Why the Change?

The Alberta Government has reduced the reimbursement rates for some essential eye care services as of Feb. 1, 2025. These adjustments come after nearly a decade without any increases to account for inflation or the rising costs of providing high-quality care, including advanced equipment and technology.

For example, a routine adult eye exam, which costs \$160 to deliver, is now reimbursed at just \$80.70—far below what most insurance providers cover and significantly less than the rate deemed reasonable by the federal Canadian Armed Forces. These reductions have further widened the gap, making it increasingly unsustainable for us to continue absorbing the difference while maintaining the exceptional level of care our patients deserve.

Our Commitment to You

We have thought long and hard about this decision, and we believe the only way to continue delivering the care you deserve is to introduce a small fee for appointments. This change allows us to:

- **Maintain our high standard of care** with state-of-the-art diagnostic tools and technology.
- Continue to provide the **personalized attention and expertise** you expect from us.
- Ensure we can serve you and your family for years to come.

New Copays (Effective February 10, 2025)

To help offset the gap in government funding, we are introducing the following copays:
Medical Visits for established patients:



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- Medical visit with no additional imaging or testing (includes up to 2 follow up appointments): **\$15**
- Medical visit with additional imaging or testing (includes up to 2 follow up appointments): **\$40**
- Peripheral Visual Field Analysis **\$15**
- ***Please note the Wainwright location will continue to offer after-hour emergency services, but the above fees will remain in effect.**

Full Exams:

- **Seniors (65+):** \$55.30 (includes Optomap retinal imaging)
 - The current cost of an Adult Full Eye Exam is \$160
 - Seniors receive a 15% discount and Alberta Health covers \$80.70.
- **Children (6 and older):** \$25 co-pay (includes Optomap retinal imaging)
- Follow up appointments for children and seniors \$15

We understand that this change seems very sudden and unexpected. The Alberta Association of Optometrists and our office were also not aware of any upcoming cuts when the publication Opto #35 was published Jan. 2, 2025. There has been advocating to have these fee cuts reversed or at least delayed. Unfortunately, it became clear this week that there was going to be no delay in their funding cuts. Therefore, it is necessary that we make these changes despite the short time frame to when they come in affect. We have made every effort to keep these fees as minimal as possible. Please know that this decision was made with the utmost consideration for our patients and the sustainability of providing high-quality eye care.

Your Voice Matters

If you are concerned about these changes, we encourage you to contact your local Legislative Assembly Member (MLA) to express your views. Your feedback highlights the impact of healthcare funding decisions on patient care.

To find the correct contact information for your local MLA please visit

www.assembly.ab.ca

We would also encourage you to forward your letters to the Ministry of Health as well.

Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Health
Office of the Minister of Health
224 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Ave
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6
Phone: 780-415-0961
Email: health.minister@gov.ab.ca



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Contact Us

If you have any questions or need more information about the new fee structure, please feel free to reach out to us. Our team is ready to assist you and ensure your eye care needs are fully met. You can email the Wainwright office at hello@prairievisioncentre.com and the Vermillion office at welcome@prairievision.com.

We greatly appreciate your understanding and continued trust in our Prairie Vision and Prairie Vision Vermillion offices. We remain committed to being your partner in eye health and wellness.

Warm regards,
Dr. Tanya Jones-Greenwood, OD
Owner/Optomtrist
Prairie Vision Wainwright and Vermilion

Dr. Dylan Johnston, OD
Owner/Optomtrist
Prairie Vision Vermilion