

REFERRAL PROTOCOL

Your primary care optometrist or ophthalmologist has referred you or a member of your family to a COVD optometrist. Your doctor respects the expertise of the COVD optometrist and together they will provide the best care available for your particular visual needs.

Many COVD optometrists, although maintaining a special interest in certain types of vision care, may also provide primary care optometric services including comprehensive vision examinations, the prescribing of contact lenses and glasses, and diagnosis and management of eye disease. As a matter of protocol and ethics, the COVD optometrist should refrain from offering these primary care optometric services to you and your family. Just as the primary care doctor respects the COVD optometrist's expertise, this same level of respect and confidence is regarded to your doctor in the areas of primary vision care.

The COVD optometrist is ethically bound to return you and your family to the referring doctor for all vision care except the special care for which you were referred.

Any prescription eyewear required during the vision care provided by the COVD optometrist should be obtained through the primary care provider's office even if the COVD optometrist wrote the prescription. The COVD optometrist will refer you back to the competent care of your primary care optometrist or ophthalmologist when these special services are no longer necessary.

This code of ethics will ensure a cooperative relationship between doctors working mutually for your benefit.