



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and
Blue Shield Association

Eye Care Guide

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November 2011

Replaces: November 2010

Preface

The *Wellmark Provider Guide* and specialty guides are billing resources for providers doing business with Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc., and Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota. The guides are referenced in your provider agreement, and include information that applies to all benefit plans in Iowa and South Dakota unless specified within the text.

Explanation of Terminology

Wellmark	Throughout the guides, the term Wellmark indicates Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc., and Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota.
Member	Individuals with health coverage through Wellmark are referred to as members.

Provider Guide Updates

Wellmark's provider guides are continually updated to bring you the most current information. The following items identify when the guide or section was last changed.

- The most current date is printed on the front cover and inside pages. The date of the version replaced is also printed on the front cover.
- A *Summary of Changes* page lists all the substantial changes made in the most current update. The page(s) affected and a brief explanation of the change is linked from the *Summary of Changes* page to the change within the document.
- Changed text is in blue type.

How to Order Paper Copies of Provider Guides

We invite you to print Wellmark's provider guides from the website. However, if you prefer to order a paper copy, simply complete a Provider Forms Order (IA: B-0002; SD: B-3001) found on

[Wellmark.com > Provider > Communication & Resources > Forms](#), or in the Member and Service Information section of the *Wellmark Provider Guide*. If you do not have a forms order blank, contact a Provider/Customer Service representative for assistance. We will inform you of guide updates in the *Blue Ink* newsletter or on the Provider page of our website.

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Blue TraditionsSM and Medicare Blue PPOSM are service marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Wellmark® is a registered mark and Alliance SelectSM is a service mark of Wellmark, Inc.

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Eye Care Guide

Summary of Changes November 2011

Phone numbers and mailing addresses are updated throughout the guide.

Page 2

Updated contact information for questions on contracting with Wellmark.

The form number of the South Dakota *Facility Application* is now #S-2325.

Page 3

Removed information on non-Wellmark eye care and hardware discount contracts some self-funded groups may include.

Page 6

Effective January 1, 2012, procedure code 92070* will be deleted. To report fitting of contact lens for management of keratoconus, initial fitting, use procedure code 92072.

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Scope Information in this guide applies to networks and products offered or administered by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota, and Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc. The guidelines may also apply to Select First, but as guidelines will vary, *FAI* please check Select First coverage at <http://www.firstadministrators.com/> or call the phone number on the back of the member's ID card for details.

I Introduction

This *Guide*, intended for use by ophthalmologists, optometrists, and ophthalmologists, is a part of your provider agreement along with your *Wellmark Provider Guide*. Information in this *Guide* applies to members covered by or enrolled in health benefit plans administered by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc. (WHPI), or Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota. When the text refers to all three companies, the term "Wellmark®" will be used. Where there are differences in the requirements of the different companies, this *Guide* will identify those differences by stating either the specific company name, "Iowa," "South Dakota," or "WHPI."

- Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa* **Note:** WHPI products include Blue Advantage®, Blue Choice®, Blue Access®, and *hawk-i* Blue Access®.
- Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa* Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa products include Alliance SelectSM, Classic Blue®, Blue TraditionsSM, Senior Blue®, MedicareBlue SupplementSM and, unless otherwise noted, the Federal Employee Program (FEP).
- Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota* Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota products include Blue Select®, Classic Blue®, Senior Blue®, MedicareBlue SupplementSM and, unless otherwise noted, the Federal Employee Program (FEP).

III Contracting with Wellmark

Contracting with Wellmark For information on contracting with Wellmark, consult the Contracts and Credentialing section of the *Wellmark Provider Guide*, or [call Network Engagement at 800-700-9137](tel:800-700-9137).

Online Access to Forms You may also start the application process by going to our website at Wellmark.com. Go to the *Provider* page and click on *Forms*, then scroll down to *Enrollment/Participation Forms*.

Ophthalmologists and Optometrists In **Iowa**, select *Iowa Statewide Universal Practitioner Application*. This will bring up a copy of the practitioner application form.

In **South Dakota**, select *South Dakota Statewide Universal Practitioner Application*. This will bring up a copy of the practitioner application form.

Ocularists Ocularistry is recognized under the Orthotic and Prosthetic facility credentialing program. To contract with Wellmark, **Iowa** ocularists should apply using the *Iowa Statewide Universal Facility Application*.

South Dakota ocularists should use *Facility Application #S-2325*.

Print and complete the appropriate form, **sign in ink**, and mail to Wellmark at the address below:

<i>Iowa</i>	Wellmark Inc
<i>and</i>	P.O. Box 14509
<i>South Dakota</i>	Des Moines IA 50306-3509

III Health Maintenance Vision Exams

Eye Refraction Services

Eye refractions usually not covered

Do not bill WHPI members separately for refractive care

WHPI periodic screening vision exam benefit

Billing WHPI vision exams



Benefit information online

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield contracts (**Iowa and South Dakota**) typically do not provide benefits for eye refractive care unless the patient's benefits include code 92015* as a covered service. If this code is not covered, claims for refractions will deny as a noncovered benefit, regardless of the diagnosis. You may bill the patient for this service. **Note:** You may **not** bill members with Blue Access, Blue Choice, or Blue Advantage coverage separately for refractive care (see S-code descriptions below).

Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa (Blue Access, Blue Choice, and Blue Advantage) products have benefits for one screening vision examination in a calendar year, when provided by a network ophthalmologist or optometrist. A referral is *not* required for this benefit.

Bill screening vision exams for patients with **Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa (WHPI)** coverage with diagnosis code V72.0 and one of the following codes, even when a refraction is **not** part of the exam:

S0620—routine ophthalmological examination including refraction;
new patient

S0621—routine ophthalmological examination including refraction;
established patient

Only those services considered part of a screening eye exam are covered.

Screening vision exams are not a benefit of most non-HMO Wellmark contracts unless an employer group purchases that coverage for its employees. For specific benefit information for your patients, access the Benefit Inquiry screen on our website, www.wellmark.com. More information is available in the "Online Services" section of this guide.

IV Medical Eye Care Benefits

Accidental Injury

An accidental injury is an unforeseen event or external force resulting from carelessness, unawareness, or unavoidable causes. The surgical removal of a foreign body is one of the more common procedures required as a result of an accident. Other injuries classified as accidental include, but are not limited to, abrasions, bug bites, and contusions.

If the services are accident-related, complete block 10 (identifies if the accident is employment- or auto accident-related) and block 14 (provides the date the accident occurred) on the CMS-1500 claim form.

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Vision care due to medical diagnosis other than diabetes

Exams for Medical Diagnoses Other than Diabetes

For vision care provided due to medical diagnoses other than diabetes, use the appropriate code from 92002–92014* or 99201–99215. If eye refraction is performed as part of the exam, do not bill Wellmark separately for this service.

Billing injuries or conditions of the eye

When a condition or injury is present that affects the eyes, medically necessary services performed by an M.D./D.O. or in some cases, an optometrist, are benefits under the patient’s health coverage. Refer to *CPT* under the Eye Surgical section (65091–68899) or the Medicine section (92002–92499) for specific codes related to the eye.

No 50 modifier on eye exam codes

The majority of codes in the ophthalmology section of CPT relate to both eyes and do not require a 50 modifier. The 50 modifier indicates that a procedure is being billed bilaterally. Do not bill a 50 modifier with an evaluation and management (E/M) code (92002–92014 or 99201–99215).



Retinal Eye Exam for Diabetes

All Wellmark products cover a yearly retinal eye exam for members with diabetes, apart from the member’s vision care coverage. The primary diagnosis code should be diabetes, to distinguish this from a regular vision screening exam. **Note:** Members with Blue Advantage or Blue Access coverage must receive services from providers participating in the Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa network.

54 modifier for surgery with no pre- or postoperative care

Pre- and Postoperative Eye Care

If the surgeon provides surgical care only (no pre- or postoperative care) and relinquishes care at the time of discharge, a 54 modifier should be added to the surgical procedure code. The 54 modifier indicates that another practitioner provides preoperative and/or postoperative management, while the surgeon is responsible for preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative hospital services.

Preoperative care

Preoperative or postoperative examinations furnished by an optometrist are covered if the surgeon submits the 54 modifier on his or her claim. Bill preoperative exams with the 56 modifier.

Postoperative care— one provider

When one provider furnishes the entire postoperative care, use the surgical procedure code and a 55 (postoperative care) modifier. Bill the date of surgery as the date of service and the units of service as 1, even if the patient is seen more than once.

Postoperative care— more than one provider

When more than one provider delivers postoperative care, the care allowance is divided according to the number of days each provider is responsible for the patient’s care.

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*Postoperative care—
more than one pro-
vider, cont.*

When the surgeon continues to care for the patient following discharge, he/she bills with a separate line item including the date of surgery, surgical procedure code, and modifier 55 for the postoperative care. The surgeon's claim should indicate the date of discharge and the date postoperative care was relinquished to another physician. Use field 19 of the CMS-1500 or the Comments line if billing electronically.

When reporting only a portion of the care, please include the following information on your claim:

Include on claim

In this field...	Enter
From/To Date of Service	Date of the surgical procedure
Units of Service	1 (one) unit of service
Field 19 (paper claims) OR Comments Line (electronic claims)	Dates you provided care

*Payment for portion of
care*

Wellmark will pay each provider responsible for postoperative care a percentage of the maximum allowable fee (MAF). The percentage varies with the surgery performed. Specific percentages may be found under the column heading Post Op in the National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PhysicianFeeSched/PFSRVF/list.asp#TopOfPage>



Scroll down to select the appropriate year. Keep in mind that Wellmark will consider benefits for services rendered only, and will not accept billings for future services.

Other Covered Eye Care Services

The following are brief descriptions of items or services Wellmark will cover for eye care. Codes have been identified to help you bill the service correctly. For specific coding information, please refer to the Vision Services section (V2020–V2799) in HCPCS.

*Aphakic
eye condition*

Contact lenses (V2500–V2599) and cataract glasses (frames—V2020 and lenses—V2100–V2499) are covered if an aphakic eye condition is present.

Blepharoplasty

Blepharoplasty (CPT* code ranges 15820–15823, 67900–67924) is covered when medically necessary. Prior approval is highly recommended. Blepharoplasty for cosmetic purposes is not covered.

*Hydrophilic
contact lenses*

Hydrophilic contact lenses (V2520–V2523) also may be used as moist corneal bandages for the treatment of acute or chronic corneal pathology such as bullous keratopathy, dry eyes, ulcers and erosion, keratitis, and for other therapeutic reasons. The services must meet medical necessity criteria in order to be considered a covered benefit.

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Corneal pachymetry Wellmark allows both an evaluation and management (E/M) code and a pachymetry test when billed on the same day. The E/M code may be an office call (CPT* code range 99201–99215) or an eye exam (codes 92012 or 92014).

Corneal relaxing incision Use CPT code 65772 to bill a corneal relaxing incision to correct a surgically induced astigmatism. This procedure is covered *only* when the patient exhibits one of the following conditions:



- previous cataract extraction
- previous corneal transplant
- diagnosis of keratoconus

The use of this surgery for any other diagnoses or conditions is not covered by Wellmark.

Intraocular lenses Intraocular lens implantation services, as well as the lens itself, may be covered if medically necessary for the individual. Implantation services may include hospital, surgical, and other medical services, including preimplantation ultrasound (A-scan) eye measurement of one or both eyes.

Keratoconus Custom contact lenses are covered for a diagnosis of keratoconus. Bill using the following guidelines:

- Use HCPCS code V2599 with a unit of 2. Do not use a 50, RT or LT modifier.
- Provide a valid manufacturer's invoice for each contact lens.
- Corneal topography: Use procedure code 92025.
- Fitting fee:
 - With dates of service through 12/31/2011, use procedure code 92070. *This code will be deleted at the end of 2011.*
 - Beginning with date of service 01/01/2012, use new procedure code **92072**.
- Use the appropriate E/M code for the contact lens visit.

Office notes are required with the CMS-1500 to avoid a denial. Do not send the color corneal topography.

Scleral shell A scleral shell (V2627) fits over the entire exposed surface of the eye as opposed to a corneal contact lens (V2530), which covers only the central non-white area encompassing the pupil and iris. Where an eye has been rendered sightless and shrunk by inflammatory disease, a scleral shell may obviate the need for surgical enucleation and prosthetic implant and act to support the surrounding orbital tissue.

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Scleral shells, cont. Scleral shells are occasionally used in combination with artificial tears. In such a case, the device serves essentially as an artificial eye. Tears ordinarily dry at a rapid rate, and are continually replaced by the lacrimal gland. When the lacrimal gland fails, the half-life of artificial tears may be greatly prolonged by the use of the scleral contact lens as a protective barrier against the drying action of the atmosphere. The lens acts in this instance to substitute, in part, for the functioning of the diseased lacrimal gland and would be covered as a prosthetic device in the rare case when it is used in the treatment of dry eye.

V Noncovered Eye Care Services

Wellmark does not cover certain eye care services. The information below explains these in detail.

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield contracts (Iowa and South Dakota) typically do not include benefits for eye refractive care code 92015* unless the code is specifically listed under the patient's benefits. If this code is not covered, refractions will deny as a noncovered benefit, regardless of the diagnosis. You may bill the patient for this service.

Correction of refraction Eyeglasses, lenses, or surgery (such as radial keratotomy or photorefractive keratectomy) for the purpose of correcting refraction, or examinations for the prescription or fitting of eyeglasses or lenses are normally not covered by Wellmark.

Contact lenses Benefits for contact lenses also are not usually covered unless directly related to the treatment of a medical condition. Wellmark does not provide benefits for contact lenses if they are used in the treatment of nondiseased eyes with spherical ametropia, refractive astigmatism, and/or corneal astigmatism.

Vision therapies Orthoptic and/or pleoptic training includes services reported as vision development therapy, ocular motor therapy, vision perception therapy, amblyopia therapy, and binocular vision therapy. These services are not covered by Wellmark except in certain situations as detailed in the appropriate Wellmark medical policy, available on our website at Wellmark.com > Provider > Medical Policies & Authorizations.

When a group chooses coverage which differs from Wellmark's policies, the member's contract supersedes the medical policy. To check a member's specific benefits, log in to Wellmark.com and select *View Eligibility & Benefits*.

To gain first-time access to our secure online tools, apply by selecting the [Register for Wellmark.com](http://Wellmark.com) link on our website's Provider page.

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LASIK surgery Most Wellmark contracts do not allow benefits for laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) eye surgery performed to correct nearsightedness. Verify benefits online at Wellmark.com. Select *View Eligibility & Benefits*. You may also call the Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa Provider Service Center at **800-362-2218** or **515-376-4688**, or the Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota Provider/Customer Service Center at **800-774-3892** or **605-373-7292**.

VI Online Services

To gain first-time access to our secure online tools, apply by selecting the [Register for Wellmark.com](#) link on our website's Provider page.

For prompt answers to your questions on patient eligibility and benefits or to check on the status of your claims, log in to Wellmark.com and select the appropriate link.

Coding questions For answers to your coding questions, please use the information found in the *Wellmark Provider Guide* along with coding information available in *CPT** or *HCPCS*. If you cannot find a code to fit the description of services, submit your concern using our Provider Help for Challenging Coding Questions electronic form at Wellmark.com > Provider > Contact Us [see link at top right of page] > For Providers > For [your state] Providers > Claims > Challenging Coding Questions [NOT related to a claim].

VII Service Contacts

We hope you will find this guide a useful source of information about Wellmark benefits and specific eye care services or procedures. If you have questions, please call the numbers shown below:

Iowa **Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa**
Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa
 (Alliance Select, Classic Blue, Blue Traditions, MedicareBlue SupplementSM, Blue Access, Blue Choice, Blue Advantage)
800-362-2218 or **515-376-4688**

South Dakota **Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota**
 (Blue Select, Classic Blue, MedicareBlue SupplementSM)
800-774-3892 or **605-373-7292**

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Iowa Service Contacts

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa
Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc.
Des Moines, IA 50306-9232\

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa* Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc.*

Provider Service

.....800-362-2218 or 515-376-4688

Federal Employee Program*

.....800-532-1537 or 515-376-4784

Tyson Foods

.....800-526-5710

Iowa Bankers for benefit questions only

.....800-258-1415 (call 800-362-2218 for claims issues)

UI Care, UI GradCare, and UI Select

.....800-355-2031

Ford Retirees

Physicians ... 800-344-8525; Facilities ...800-249-5103

Admission Notification, Precertification, and Case Management

.....800-552-3993

Network Engagement

....800-700-9137

Contact to discuss contracting opportunities in your area

Pregnancy Program*

.....866-460-9742

Disease Management Program*

.....866-816-5264

Network Administration*

....800-708-1342 or 515-376-5100

Providing information about:

network participation provider number

address change application status

credentialing/recredentialing status

taxpayer identification number change

BlueCard® Program*

Out-of-state members' claim status or payment information

.....800-362-2218 or 515-376-4688

Out-of-state members' eligibility information

....800-676-2583

EC (Electronic Commerce) Solutions*

.....800-407-0267

Providing electronic claims and reports information

Pharmacy Department

.....800-600-8065

South Dakota Service Contacts

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota*

Provider/Customer Service Center

.....800-774-3892 or 605-373-7292

Federal Employee Program*

.....800-532-1537

Tyson Foods

.....800-526-5710

Admission Notification, Precertification, and Case Management

800-642-9273

Network Engagement

....800-700-9137

Contact to discuss contracting opportunities in your area

Pregnancy Program*

.....866-460-9742

Disease Management Program*

.....866-816-5264

Network Administration*

....800-708-1342

Providing information about

network participation provider number

address change application status

taxpayer identification number change

BlueCard® Program

Out-of-state members' claim status or payment information

.....800-774-3892

EC (Electronic Commerce) Solutions*

.....800-407-0267

Providing electronic claims and reports information

Pharmacy Department

.....800-600-8065



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*You will find e-mail links to these areas from our website at
Wellmark.com > *Contact Us* (top right of page). Select
For Providers and on the next screen, choose your state.