



Medicare Billing for Cataract Co-Management by Optometrists

Co-Management with Private Arrangements

Ophthalmologist provides service of cataract surgery as a *Medicare* item which includes an obligation to provide or arrange aftercares. May arrange co-management with optometrist who receives payment from the ophthalmologist.

Co-Management with Public Hospitals - the Alfred

Public hospitals are funded by State Governments (not *Medicare*) on a 'case load' basis for that service only – e.g. cataract surgery. Surgery and aftercares are separate services in terms of funding provided.

Medicare's View - Steve Zantos Optometric Advisor Medicare Australia¹

- If an Rx for vision aids is written then the consultation is *always* rebatable under *Medicare*
- Item number depends on “circumstances of each individual patient”
- Items 10900, 10907, 10912, 10913, 10914, 10915, 10916 or 10918 may be applicable
- Specific requirements of any applicable item number must always be satisfied
- Make item number allocations using the *Medicare* guidelines as you normally would

N.B. It is requested that patients receiving optometrical cataract aftercare services are bulk-billed

Questions on Medicare billing?

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¹ Correspondence on file – contact Ralph Green