

OPTOMETRY BULLETIN

November 30, 2022

MSI and Billing for Non-Insured Diagnostic Procedures

DHW has received reports that some optometrists in Nova Scotia are making access to MSI-insured services contingent on payment for non-insured diagnostic services. Specifically, some optometrists are requiring patients to pay for digital retinal photography so that they may receive a publicly insured comprehensive eye examination.

Nova Scotia's *Health Services and Insurance Act* was enacted to secure the principle of uniform access to publicly funded health care services, without financial barriers. Charging a mandatory fee to access an insured optometric service clearly violates this principle. Optometrists must not make access to a publicly insured service contingent on payment for non-insured services.