

Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

Reader Questions: Distinguish Between 92012 and 92014

Question: When should I use 92012 rather than 92014?

Virginia Subscriber

Answer: The main difference between 92012 (Ophthalmological services: medical examination and evaluation, with initiation or continuation of diagnostic and treatment program; intermediate, established patient) and 92014 (- comprehensive, established patient, one or more visits) is that 92014 requires dilation unless medically contraindicated.

A comprehensive exam (92014 for an established patient or 92004 for a new patient) also includes more exam components than an intermediate exam (92012 for an established patient or 92002 for a new patient). For example, an insurer may require that you include nine or more of these elements in a comprehensive exam:

- Visual acuity (not including refractive error)
- Gross visual fields
- Eyelids and adnexa
- Ocular mobility
- Pupils
- Iris
- Conjunctiva
- Cornea
- Anterior chamber
- Lens
- Intraocular pressure
- Retina (vitreous, macula, periphery and vessels)
- Optic disc.

Tip: Some insurers may require that the optometrist cover certain elements, such as gross visual fields and ocular mobility, in all comprehensive tests. Most dilated exams will include nine or more of the above items. Some insurers maintain that you should use 92002-92014 only for routine vision exams. Check your carrier for its rules.