

# Kaiser Permanente Optical Benefit

## General Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Where can I use my Kaiser Permanente optical benefit?**

A: Use your Kaiser Permanente optical benefit at a [Kaiser Permanente Optical Center](#) near you. You cannot use it at a facility outside of Kaiser Permanente's network of providers and get reimbursed.

**Q: Can I use my Kaiser Permanente optical benefit in other Kaiser Permanente regions?**

A: Yes. When purchasing from another region, pay out of pocket and ask an Optical staff member for an Interregional Reimbursement form. Return the completed form to the staff member to submit it to your home region. Once your home region approves the reimbursement, a check for the amount your benefit would have paid will be sent to you.

**Q: Do I have to use all my Kaiser Permanente optical benefit in one appointment?**

A: Depending on your coverage, you may be able to use your entire benefit amount towards eyeglasses, contact lens fitting, **and** contact lenses or may use your benefit amount towards either eyeglasses only **or** contact lens fitting and contact lenses. See [My Benefit](#) for details. However, if you don't use the entire benefit amount towards your purchase, you forfeit the remaining amount. If your coverage is a discount benefit, you can apply the discount towards your purchase any time.

**Q: When can I use my Kaiser Permanente optical benefit?**

A: Depending on your coverage, most benefit availability restarts once a year (12 months) or once every other year (24 months) from date of usage. See [My Benefit](#) for details.

**Q: Can I buy sunglasses with my Kaiser Permanente optical benefit?**

A: Yes. To use your optical benefit, your sunglasses must include at least one lens with a prescription.

**Q: Can I use my Kaiser Permanente optical benefit towards frames only?**

A: To use your optical benefit, your frames must include at least one lens with a prescription.

**Q: I have optical benefit outside of Kaiser Permanente. Can I use the benefit towards my purchase at a Kaiser Permanente Optical Center?**

A: Most plans have an out-of-network benefit. Simply pay out of pocket, and an Optical staff member can help you fill out a reimbursement form with your optical benefit provider.

**Q: Can I use my Kaiser Permanente optical benefit towards contact lens fitting fees?**

A: Depending on your benefit, you may apply your benefit towards contact lens fitting fee or it may be fully covered. See [My Benefit](#) for details.

**Q: How is vision care covered under Affordable Care Act?**

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A: For members over 19 years old, you have a 20% discount to use towards prescription eyewear. You must pay out of pocket for your eye exam. For members under 19 years old, Affordable Care Act's pediatric benefit fully covers eyeglasses from a limited selection of frames and lenses. Members who choose to purchase eyeglasses outside of the limited selection will pay the difference. The pediatric benefit can be used through the end of the month that the member turns 19 years old.

**Q: How is vision care covered under Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage?**

A: Depending on your coverage, you may have an allowance to apply to eyeglasses and contact lenses.

**Q: What is covered under Medi-Cal Vision Benefits?**

A: Eyeglasses are fully covered from a limited selection of frames and lenses. Members who choose to purchase eyeglasses outside of the limited selection will pay the difference.

**Q: What is the optical benefit for post cataract surgery?**

A: Members with a standard post-cataract surgery benefit may use the benefit towards either eyeglasses (\$85 towards frames and then select from one of three basic lens options) or one box of contact lenses (or one pair of rigid gas permeable contact lenses) per eye including contact lens fitting.

**Q: I have dual optical benefit coverage. Can I use them together towards a purchase?**

A: In most cases, yes, you may combine benefit coverages. However, you may not combine coverages if one of them is a discount plan. See [My Benefit](#) for details.

**Q: I have Medicare and MediCal dual coverage. Can I use them together towards a purchase?**

A: Medi-Cal coverage may not be used if you have other optical benefits available.

**Q: Can I stay on my parent's insurance after I turn 26 years old?**

A: Your coverage ends on your 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.