

## Who Does What?

## A Comparison of Colorado Eye Care Providers and Opticians

	Optometrist	Ophthalmologist	Optician
Provides a comprehensive eye health examination.	Yes	Yes	No
Uses drops to dilate eyes.	Yes	Yes	No
Diagnoses eye diseases.*	Yes	Yes	No
Diagnoses and treats glaucoma.*	Yes	Yes	No
Writes prescriptions to treat eye disease.*	Yes	Yes	No
Writes prescriptions for eyeglasses and contact lenses.	Yes	Yes	No
Monitors progression of cataracts.	Yes	Yes	No
Co-manages diabetic patients with internists.	Yes	Yes	No
Provides before and after care for patients who have cataract surgery and refractive laser surgery.	Yes	Yes	No
Removes superficial foreign bodies from the eye, e.g., pieces of metal, dirt, paint and wood.	Yes	Yes	No
Considered a physician by Medicare.	Yes	Yes	No
Performs surgery.	No	Yes	No
Grinds lenses for glasses.	No	No	Yes

\*Optometrists diagnose and treat eye diseases as defined by statute. The law holds optometrists to the same standard of care as an ophthalmologist.

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