
PATIENT POLICIES, CONSENTS, AND PRACTICE INFORMATION

The following policies reflect the operational, financial, and privacy practices of DiGaetano Cataract Services. These statements mirror the acknowledgments and consents presented during patient registration.

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

DiGaetano Cataract Services maintains a Notice of Privacy Practices that describes how medical information may be used and disclosed and how patients may access that information.

The Notice outlines patient rights, including:

- The right to obtain a copy of medical records
- The right to request corrections
- The right to request confidential communications
- The right to request restrictions on certain disclosures
- The right to receive an accounting of disclosures
- The right to file a complaint

Health information may be used or disclosed for:

- Treatment
- Payment
- Healthcare operations
- Public health and safety activities
- Legal and regulatory compliance
- Other uses permitted or required by law

The Notice of Privacy Practices is available in the office and on the practice website. A paper copy is available upon request.

The practice's Privacy Official is:

Hether Buhler
(386) 255-5050
hbuhler@digaetanocataract.com

AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT

The physicians and clinical staff of DiGaetano Cataract Services provide medical evaluation, diagnostic services, procedures, and treatment as medically appropriate.

Care may include examination, dilation, diagnostic testing, prescription services, and surgical consultation when indicated.

Treatment decisions are based on clinical judgment and patient-specific findings.

ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Payment of medical benefits may be assigned directly to DiGaetano Cataract Services for services rendered.

Medical information may be released as necessary to process insurance claims and coordinate care.

Insurance coverage is a contract between the patient and the insurance carrier.

The practice accepts Medicare assignment and submits claims to certain medical plans based on information provided by the patient.

Copayments, deductibles, and non-covered services are due at the time of service unless prior arrangements have been made.

If a claim is denied, unpaid, or applied to deductible, the remaining balance is the responsibility of the patient.

Failure of an insurance carrier to pay does not relieve the patient of financial responsibility.

REFRACTION POLICY

Refraction is the portion of the eye examination used to determine a glasses prescription.

Many insurance plans, including Medicare, classify refraction as a non-covered service.

When refraction is performed, patients may be financially responsible for the associated fee depending on their insurance coverage.

DRIVING AND DILATION POLICY

Dilating drops are commonly used to enlarge the pupils in order to examine the internal structures of the eye.

Dilation frequently causes blurred vision and light sensitivity.

Patients are advised not to drive following dilation and are encouraged to arrange transportation when appropriate.

If a patient chooses to drive after dilation, responsibility for safe operation of a vehicle rests with the patient.

Adverse reactions to dilation, including acute angle-closure glaucoma, are extremely rare and treatable with prompt medical care.

Administration of dilating drops may be performed as part of routine examination and treatment when medically indicated.

APPOINTMENT POLICY

The practice strives to provide attentive and unhurried care.

Patients who are unable to keep an appointment are expected to notify the office in advance so that appointment time may be offered to another patient.

Repeated missed appointments or late cancellations may result in scheduling limitations.

PATIENT ASSISTANCE POLICY

Patients who need personal assistance must bring a family member, friend, or caregiver who can help them before, during, and after the appointment.

Our team provides care during the visit but cannot provide personal attendant, caregiver, or ongoing supervision services. The accompanying person should remain available throughout the appointment.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION CONSENT

DiGaetano Cataract Services may communicate with patients regarding scheduled or unscheduled appointments using contact information provided by the patient.

Communication methods may include:

- Text messages (SMS)
- Email
- Phone calls

Message frequency may vary. Message and data rates may apply. Patients are responsible for communicating changes to contact information. Communication preferences may be updated by contacting the office.

MEDICAL HISTORY AND INFORMATION ACCURACY

Accurate medical, surgical, and medication history is essential for safe and effective care.

Patients are expected to provide complete and truthful information to the best of their knowledge and to notify the practice of changes.

Clinical recommendations are based on the accuracy of the information provided.

SURGICAL AND LENS IMPLANT DISCUSSIONS

Cataract surgery is performed only once in a lifetime on each eye.

Lens implant selection affects postoperative visual outcomes and the potential need for glasses.

Not all patients are candidates for every available lens implant.

Use of eyeglasses after premium lens implant surgery depends on multiple factors, and some patients will continue to wear glasses periodically.

Surgical recommendations are based on clinical evaluation and patient-specific findings.

GENERAL PRACTICE STATEMENT

These policies are intended to promote:

- Clear communication
- Ethical medical decision-making
- Accurate billing and insurance processing
- Patient safety
- Regulatory compliance

DiGaetano Cataract Services operates with a commitment to clarity, steadiness, and informed patient decision-making.