



POLICY: REFRACTIVE SURGERY REFERRALS

Under normal circumstances a comprehensive consultation as covered by Medicare would provide sufficient information for referral to a laser refractive surgeon.

There may be some circumstances when the referring optometrist and the patient are located some distance from the ophthalmologist, when the ophthalmologist may ask the optometrist to perform certain procedures before the ophthalmologist sees the patient.

In these cases the optometrist should be paid by the ophthalmologist on a "fee for service" basis, after the original referral is made.

The policy position of the Board is that the payment of a fee for referral of a patient for refractive surgery is "unprofessional conduct".

Queries regarding refractive surgery referrals may be directed to the Board on telephone (07) 3247 4862, fax (07) 3225 2527 or email optometry@healthregboards.qld.gov.au.