

The Workplace Cost of Eye Disease

For the Prevention and Early Detection of Disease		For the Monitoring and Management of Mild Disease		For the Monitoring and Management of Severe Disease	
Diabetic Retinopathy (DR): Annual Costs					
Major Examination:	\$90 - 150	Major Examination:	\$90 - 150	Major Examination:	\$90 - 150
Minor Examination:	\$60 - 95	Minor Examination:	\$60 - 95	Minor Examination:	\$60 - 95
Modern Diagnostics & Imaging:	\$50 - 100	Modern Diagnostics & Imaging:	\$50 - 100	Modern Diagnostics & Imaging:	\$50 - 100
		Diabetes medication:	\$200 - 1,500	Diabetes medication:	\$5,000
				Mental health medications and counselling*:	\$1,000 - 5,000
				Short and long term disability - first year**:	\$45,000
Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD): Annual Costs					
Major Examination:	\$90 - 150	Major Examination:	\$90 - 150	Major Examination:	\$90 - 150
Minor Examination:	\$60 - 95	Minor Examination:	\$60 - 95	Minor Examination:	\$60 - 95
Modern Diagnostics & Imaging:	\$50 - 100	Modern Diagnostics & Imaging:	\$50 - 100	Modern Diagnostics & Imaging:	\$50 - 100
				Mental health medications and counselling*:	\$1,000 - 5,000
				Short and long term disability - first year**:	\$45,000
Glaucoma: Annual Costs					
Major Examination:	\$90 - 150	Major Examination:	\$90 - 150	Major Examination:	\$90 - 150
Minor Examination:	\$60 - 95	Minor Examination:	\$60 - 95	Minor Examination:	\$60 - 95
Modern Diagnostics & Imaging:	\$50 - 100	Modern Diagnostics & Imaging:	\$50 - 100	Modern Diagnostics & Imaging:	\$50 - 100
		Prescription eye drops:	\$50 - 500	Mental health medications and counselling*:	\$1,000 - 5,000
				Short and long term disability - first year**:	\$45,000

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Millions of Canadians live with or are at risk of an eye disease that can lead to serious vision loss. Several eye diseases are chronic ones that benefit from early detection and treatment, especially glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration (AMD), and diabetic retinopathy. Like other chronic diseases, the symptoms of eye disease are often only noticeable to patients once the conditions have advanced to stages at which treatment is both challenging and expensive, if not impossible.

Early detection with screening is the best approach to preventing severe conditions and high treatment costs.

If performed according to recommended frequency guidelines, including diagnostic and imaging tools, more than 90% of vision loss in Canada can be detected early and prevented from progressing to functional vision impairment.ⁱ

Note: Cost estimates are based on the best available information. Prescription costs are based on the costs of prescriptions in Ontario. Costs for major examinations, minor examinations, and advanced diagnostics and imaging vary by region and provider. Frequency of intervention will vary based on individual risk factors, stage of disease, and clinical judgement of the Optometrist. Please refer to the CAO treatment pathways for diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, and glaucoma for further information.

**Vision loss from eye disease is associated with an increased risk of mental health issues like depression and anxiety.*

***Absenteeism is based on two-thirds of the gross annual income of \$63,800 for Canadian adults ages 25 - 64 (2021).*

i. The Lancet Global Health Commission, 2021