

# You can't spot eye disease.

## Eye care professionals

### General Practitioners

General practitioners are often the first port of call for eye conditions. They will provide immediate assessment and treatment of the problem and may refer you to an ophthalmologist.

### Ophthalmologist

An ophthalmologist (also known as an eye specialist or eye surgeon) is a specialist medical practitioner who provides diagnostic, treatment and preventative medical services related to diseases, injuries and deficiencies of the human eye and associated structures.

For more information on ophthalmologists visit the **Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists** website [www.ranzco.edu](http://www.ranzco.edu)

### Ophthalmic nurses

Ophthalmic nurses can be Registered or Enrolled nurses. They typically provide nursing care to patients being treated by an ophthalmologist.

### Optometrists

Optometrists specialise in the management of disorders of the eyes and vision system. Optometrists prescribe spectacles and contact lenses and carry out treatment for eye disorders. Unlike ophthalmologists, optometrists do not perform surgery but may prescribe drugs to treat some eye diseases.

Optometrists can check your vision and prescribe lenses to help you see clearly. This is known as correcting refractive error. They can also examine your eye health by looking at the retina, optic nerve and macula of the eye. This is where the first sign of eye disease can appear. Optometrists may prescribe treatments for some eye disease and they can also refer to ophthalmologists if required.

Optometrists may bulk-bill for services which are funded by Medicare.

For more information on optometrists visit the **Optometrists Association Australia** website [www.optometrists.asn.au](http://www.optometrists.asn.au)

### Orthoptists

Orthoptists specialise in the diagnosis and management of disorders of eye movements and associated vision problems. They perform investigative procedures appropriate to disorders of the eye and vision system and help with rehabilitation of patients experiencing vision loss.

### Optical dispensers and optical mechanics

Optical dispensers interpret optical prescriptions as well as fit and service optical appliances such as spectacles frames and lenses. Optical mechanics operate machines to grind, polish and surface optical lenses to meet prescription requirements. Optical mechanics also fit lenses to spectacle frames.

