

Refractive Error – Loss of Glasses or Contact Lenses	Referral Guide: Page 1 of 1	Ophthalmology
Diagnosis/Definition: Loss of glasses or contact lenses is not a medical emergency. Patients should be counseled at regular care visits to maintain a backup pair of glasses (their “old pair” is fine in a clutch) as a temporizing bridge to the replacement of lost spectacles or contact lenses.		
Initial Diagnosis and Management: The most efficient way to create a backup pair of glasses for perceived emergencies is to have the patient contact the last provider of glasses to look up the prescription and have an inexpensive pair created. Often times a broken pair can be examined and the prescription can be determined and re-created. The Ophthalmology Service at DHMC cannot dispense glasses or contact lenses to patients. A follow-up appointment will be made to remeasure the patient’s refractive error to derive an up-to-date prescription if desired. Contact lens services are limited only to Denver Health Medical Plan members on a limited basis.		
Ongoing Management and Objectives: Regular reminders to maintain a viable backup pair of glasses helps avoid perceived emergencies.		
Indications for Specialty Care Referral:		
Test(s) to Prepare for Consult:	Test(s) Consultant May Need To Do:	
Criteria for Return to Primary Care:		
Revision History: Created		
Revised		

Disclaimer: Adherence to these guidelines will not ensure successful treatment in every situation. Further, these guidelines should not be considered inclusive of all accepted methods of care or exclusive of other methods of care reasonably directed to obtaining the same results. The ultimate judgment regarding the appropriateness of any specific procedure, therapy, or referral must be made by the physician/provider in light of all circumstances presented by an individual patient.