

NOTICE: POTENTIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN OPTOMETRISTS AND ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

As you may have heard, Optometrists in Ontario are in a protracted dispute with the Ford Government over the amount of reimbursement they receive from Ontario Health for services provided under OHIP, **including for eye exams.**

The Provincial Association of Optometrists is calling on Optometrists to stop providing care to Ontarians who are eligible for coverage under OHIP if a new reimbursement agreement is not reached with the Province prior to **September 1st, 2021.**

Ontario seniors over age 64 would be directly affected by this action.

It's not yet clear whether, or how, the dispute will be resolved. GSC and the Trust are working on various options and will provide more information as we approach September 1st. One potential impact of this action could be that some of our members will have to delay their eye exams until the dispute is resolved. Another could be that Optometrists provide the eye exam but demand payment from the plan member (it is not clear that this would in fact be legal under Ontario law).

In the meantime, we would encourage any plan member who requires, or is contemplating, an eye exam and/or new eye glasses to consider visiting their optometrist prior to September 1st, 2021 to ensure they receive treatment.