

Try this SPECTACULAR savings option for GLASSES!



Do you ever wonder how “consumerism” can pay off for you? If you wear glasses - and more than one-half of America does - then some pro-active consumerism methods might prove personally and financially advantageous.

While the County’s health insurance program covers a routine eye exam every 24 months for adults when provided by an in-network optometrist or ophthalmologist as a medical specialist procedure, it does not offer a vision component that covers the cost of prescription lenses, contacts, or other eyewear. In addition, the plan does not cover the cost of the eye refraction. This is the step that dials in the prescription required to correct your vision, if the routine eye exam shows that a correction is necessary. However, employees, dependents, and eligible retirees are eligible for a discount at certain retailers, thru Davis Vision as a Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield member, but eyewear can still run into the 100s of dollars.

Enter Zenni Optical. On their website, www.zennioptical.com, high-quality, affordable, stylish prescription eyewear is available - without insurance - for as little as \$6.95 a pair. To order, you will need your vision prescription from your eye care provider and your pupillary distance (PD) - the distance between the midpoints of your pupils. Some providers show your pupillary distance on the prescription. If yours does not, Zenni’s website offers complete instructions on how to obtain your pupillary distance. Simply scroll down to the bottom left and click on “Measure your PD”. Now that you have all of your prescription information, all you need to do is select your frame style and you will be asked to enter in the information from your prescription.

Once you enter your prescription information and PD, the website will automatically make recommendations for options. These options vary in price based on whether your correction is for single vision, bifocal, progressive no-line bifocal, non-prescription, or if you just want to order frames only. A wide range of affordable options is available for women, men and children, and include sports glasses, goggles, and prescription or non-prescription sunglasses. Once you have selected the options you want it will show you the price with the selected options and then you click “Add to Cart”. From there you may continue shopping or go to checkout to enter your payment information.

Once you’ve received your new eyewear, if you made a mistake when placing your order or you simply don’t care for the frames, you may return them to Zenni for any reason. You have thirty (30) days from the date you receive the glasses to call Zenni for a return authorization number. You can choose to return them for a 50% refund (excluding shipping) to your credit,

debit, or PayPal account, or choose a 100% store credit (excluding shipping) which can be used once per order.

Cost savings can be significant. For example, a pair of purple, rectangular frame sunglasses (selected from the \$6.95 frame category) with progressive, no-line bifocals, polarized gray tint, and anti-reflective coating will cost \$106.90 at Zenni. The same pair from a Davis Vision provider, (frames start at \$40) with the same options comes in at \$225.00, more than twice the cost of a pair from Zenni. Several Kent County employees have purchased prescription glasses from Zenni that cost less than \$20 a pair!

Being a pro-active consumer can lead to large savings. Who knows – you may save so much that you can purchase a second pair of glasses, or a third, or wait...., maybe those cute cat-eye sunglasses you've had your eyes on!

Special thanks to Michele Green, Employee Council Secretary, for bringing the Zenni website to our attention and providing an end user point of view for this informative news blog.

If you know of other health related cost saving strategies that could benefit and be of interest to a broad spectrum of employees, please let the Personnel Office know about it. We will attempt to verify the potential savings and if applicable do our best to publicize it.

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