

Discount LASIK FAQ's

Have you ever wondered why some LASIK practices can offer such extreme discounted prices while others recommend charges that are beyond your purse strings? With so many advertisements focused on price, New England Eye Center can understand why you might be confused. Our physicians and highly skilled LASIK team are here to help you understand the value and affordability of seeing experienced surgeons at a world class hospital.

Why Discount?

Discount LASIK is a means to attract a patient to the office. "The low price or the discount savings" is a way to capture your attention to prompt you to call and inquire for more information. Sometimes the discount offered is deducted from a "higher standard price" which is never actually collected. There is nothing in the wrong with using this stratagem, but it is not standard practice at New England Eye Center."

Our belief is simple. In order for you to make an informed decision when choosing your LASIK provider, you should be better educated on price tactics. This way you can recognize what discount LASIK could mean to you. Most often the criteria needed for someone to qualify for the low price LASIK exists in a very small percentage of the population. If you read the fine print in the advertisement, it will state exactly what prescriptions essentially qualify. In some instances the lower cost could actually pertain to utilizing technology that one would now consider "out of date" or not the "desired practice of medicine."

Why charge for different prescriptions?

Practices advertising discounts off LASIK or very low prices for LASIK may recommend upgraded charges based on your eye prescription. The reality is, when it comes to your eyes, it should not matter if the prescription is higher or lower to treat someone with LASIK. If an individual qualifies for LASIK, it should require the same resources on the laser to treat a person with a low degree of nearsightedness as it does to treat someone with nearsightedness and astigmatism. The same pre and post operative testing is required to determine candidacy and once the doctor turns on the laser for a procedure it will cost the same amount of money to have it on for 30 seconds just as it does to have it on for 50 seconds.

At New England Eye Center in Boston, we offer one comprehensive price for our iLASIK and PRK patients which include all pre-operative testing and post operative follow up visits for one year. The only time the price changes at New England Eye Center is when patients are candidates for procedures other than LASIK. We call these alternatives Advanced Lens Procedures or Premium Lenses. These procedures, such as the Visian Lens, Crystalens, Toric lens and Restor lens, require being treated in an ASC (Ambulatory Surgical Center) for an intraoperative procedure and any fees that apply to that facility which are not covered by insurance. The physicians at New England Eye Center are experts in vision correction and offer the most recent advancements in procedures and technology. We will not match the patient's budget to the prescription or technology. We will recommend the procedure that will give you your personal best vision.

Do I need an extended warranty?

Additional prices you may be exposed to at LASIK practices might include extended warranties for enhancements or different tiers of pricing for different surgeons. If this appeals to you, keep in mind, while you may have paid for a warrantee, there is nothing that will guarantee that particular LASIK practice will be in existence 2 years to ten years from now.

At New England Eye Center, you can feel comforted by the stability and longevity of the practice for years to come. We have been serving the community for over 20 years. We are a comprehensive eye care facility and are not required to meet a LASIK quota to stay in business. We are here to manage all of your eye care needs.

Do I need punctal plugs for the treatment of dry eye?

Some additional or hidden prices you will find when visiting discount LASIK centers may apply to the treatment of dry eye. LASIK surgery has been known to temporarily induce some dry eye symptoms. While the dryness can vary, it usually resolves itself within a few months. If significant, the dryness can affect your visual outcome. If you suffer from dry eye prior to surgery it will be important to proactively address dry eye symptoms prior to laser vision correction. However, not everyone suffers from dry eye; therefore not everyone requires the treatment for dry eye. Some LASIK centers in Massachusetts and in the United States require all patients to purchase punctal plugs for dry eyes regardless of the need and they will persuade the patient that their dry eye protocol is in their best interest of the patient. This is a way to obtain more money incrementally from the patient. While punctal plugs are an option for the treatment of dry eye, there is more than one treatment for this condition. At New England Eye Center we start with eye drops before inserting punctal plugs. Often the treatment of dry eye can be resolved or controlled by using Restasis® or other types of eye drops. During your pre-operative consultation and dilated exam we will measure your tear film. If your tear film is low, the physician will recommend a dry eye regimen which will correct your tear film to an optimal level before proceeding to surgery. In some instances, the doctor may actually recommend an alternative vision correction procedure called the Visian ICL. If you suffer from dry eye, it may not be in your best interest to proceed with LASIK at all and the Visian implantable Contact Lens or PRK could be a better alternative than LASIK. This is one of the advantages to being treated in our facility. LASIK is not all we do. It is only one option in a wide variety of services we have available.

Should I consider going with the lower price?

When you are ready to see if you are a candidate for vision correction we will be honored if you choose us for your procedure. We understand the financial aspect is a consideration. Please know if you are unable to afford the most advanced procedure at this time, we will be available to you when you are able. We would advise you to wait until you can afford the best, than to risk your future and your precious eyesight to a more risky alternative. You may also be surprised to learn that financing programs are available today that make the best truly affordable. Speak with one of our skilled LASIK staff to discuss these programs and also remember to speak to your employer about flex spending programs. When the time is right for you, New England Eye Center will be honored to treat you and be your vision care provider.