



What to Expect at your Visit

Your initial visit to the office will last approximately 1 1/2-2 hrs. This time can be reduced if you fill out the patient information forms prior to your visit. You can print them out by downloading the PDF in the Patient Forms section of the website. We can also mail these forms to you. Please fill them out in their entirety. You can bring them with you to your appointment, fax them to **406-284-2372** or mail them to us. Our staff can then expedite the registration process and update your records. This can significantly reduce your visit time.

You will be greeted by our receptionist and asked to show photo identification as per insurance requirements. One of our technicians will then call you back to take a thorough history of your condition. Again this can be shortened if the patient information forms have previously been sent to us. They will check your vision, your intraocular pressure and then place two sets of dilating drops in **each** eye. Dr. Comaratta feels very strongly that you are best served by an examination of both your eyes on your initial visit. Many eye conditions occur in both eyes simultaneously even if one eye has no symptoms. In light of this, **we strongly recommend that you arrange to have someone drive you from your appointment.**

It will take 20-30 minutes to for full dilation to occur. If your condition warrants we may suggest watching one of our educational videos. Depending upon your condition, our technicians may proceed with some initial diagnostic testing including high resolution digital photography, and/or ultrasound. You will then be placed in the next available exam room to be seen by Dr. Comaratta. We encourage friends and family to be in the room with you during your examination.

Dr. Comaratta will review your chart, ask pertinent questions and then proceed with a comprehensive examination of both eyes. He will explain his findings to you and answer any questions you may have. He may recommend additional testing or treatment. Additional testing or treatment may be scheduled or performed on that same visit. This will depend upon the nature of your condition, the urgency of treatment, and your travel arrangements including proximity to Bozeman.

Dr. Comaratta takes great pride in educating his patients about their condition. He will take the time to review your diagnostic testing with you at the time of your visit. If any treatment

is recommended, he will review the benefits and any risks that are associated with it. He encourages his patients to ask questions and wants them to feel comfortable regarding testing and/or treatment decisions they have to make.

There are occasions when your visit time will exceed both your and our expectations. We know your time is valuable. Retinal conditions can be emergent and sight threatening. This will result in unscheduled patients presenting to the office at inopportune times. This can result in your visit being extended. We apologize for any inconvenience that you may incur. Dr. Comaratta will make every effort to make your visit as short as possible.

Things to bring to your visit:

- Your Insurance cards
- Your office copayment
- Completed registration and history forms

If your insurance company requires pre-authorization or a referral from your primary care physician, we will need you to bring this with you or fax it to us at 406-284-2372.

Effective August 1, 2009, the Federal Trade Commission requires that we verify our patients' identity to prevent individuals from fraudulently using insurance cards to obtain medical care. We will require that you bring a picture ID, such as a driver's license or passport, or a utility bill with your name and address on it for verification purposes. This information is required to comply with federal regulations which are intended ultimately to protect you from identity theft.

Please feel free to call our office if you have questions or there is anything additional that we can do to assist you in preparing for your visit.