

March 24, 2016

RE: EyeGenetix System

Dear Doctors,

Throughout my 33 year career in North Carolina medical optometry, one ongoing concern I've had is the relatively high number of patients with very real potential eye pathology, that are lost to follow up. That's why I'm an advocate for the EyeGenetix system to address that very problem.

The EGX system appears to be all the testing necessary to identify potential eye pathology and/or vision loss for more efficient referrals; not too much or too little in terms of diagnostics, knowledge and skill to use properly for interpretation. Screening time is between 5-7 minutes which is designed for those patients at risk of vision loss as well as the efficiency of your practice. Some examples of patients to be screened would include diabetics, hypertensives, those with positive family histories of glaucoma, macular degeneration and patients on high risk medications (i.e. steroids). Anytime a patient has a best corrected distance acuity of worse than 20/40 (driving threshold) they should be screened.

A 'comprehensive' diabetic eye examination includes dilation and many other tests that don't translate well to the PCP environment. While standard retinal photography is helpful in the attempt to detect evidence of vascular disease I do believe tonometry and visual field assessment are important for a most thorough referral. Whereas retinal photography may not always be billable based on what is or isn't observed, tonometry and visual fields along with Fundus images are usually reimbursed. To be reimbursed there should be documented symptoms such as blurry vision, vision changes, etc. The more information the referral doctor gets the sooner the patient is assessed and cared for. I consider retinal photography, tonometry and visual fields testing to be an essential *triad* for care.

In the hands of the Primary Care physicians, we now have a process to efficiently address potential eye pathology that historically was lost to follow-up. Even though you may choose to send your patients to other eye care practitioners, *eyecarecenter, O.D. P.A.* stands ready to manage them. We will provide direct contact with our medical optometrists and direct contact with our staff to manage the process to the greatest benefit of our mutual patients.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A Gregg, OD
Medical Director Eyecarecenter