

# Provider Bulletin

## News and Information



January 4, 2022

## Medicare Eyewear Allowance Changes for 2022

Effective Jan. 1, 2022, members in UCare Medicare Plans, UCare Advocate Choice and UCare Advocate Plus, UCare Medicare w/ M Health Fairview & North Memorial and EssentiaCare have a new way to pay for eyewear using their annual eyewear allowance benefit. The 2022 eyewear allowance has been loaded to the members' Rewards Benefit Mastercard, which works just like a debit card. **Eyewear claims for the 2022 eyewear allowance benefit will no longer be accepted and will deny.**



Members who would like to use their eyewear allowance benefit will swipe the Mastercard at the time of purchase at any eyewear provider that accepts Mastercard debit card. They will not need to send in a receipt and wait to be paid back by check for eyewear purchases.

If the purchase amount is greater than the eyewear allowance, eyewear providers may have to do a partial payment. The partial payment should apply automatically, but if it doesn't, it will decline the transaction, and the provider will need to separate the payment into two transactions.

***Here's an example.*** If the total purchase value is \$175, and the member wants to use the Mastercard with a \$150 balance, some eyewear providers may automatically deny the entire transaction as "Insufficient Funds." If this happens, the provider should make two payments – one for \$150 using the Rewards Benefit Mastercard and a second transaction using an alternate form of payment for the \$25 that's left.

The Rewards Benefit Mastercard card is valid through the expiration date and eligible for programs each year the member's plan is renewed. If the annual benefit has been fully used, the eyewear provider should return the card to the member for future year use, if applicable.