

Glaucoma Associates of Texas

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The physicians and staff of Glaucoma Associates of Texas wish to welcome you.

We provide the full spectrum of ophthalmic services needed to take care of all glaucoma-related problems. Our surgeons are board-certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology. Each has extensive sub-specialty training and experience in the management of the most difficult glaucoma cases. In specific situations, on-site consultation can be arranged with other eye care specialists including retina, cornea, pediatric, plastics and neurology.

We are here to serve you, the patient, and we want to help you understand what will take place at your first visit. Your first visit will last between 1-3 hours. A complete medical and family history must be taken during your initial exam. This includes questions about your general health, allergies, medications and past surgeries or diseases. **A medical questionnaire has been enclosed with this letter. We recommend that you or a family member fill it out and bring it with you to your first visit.** The medical questionnaire is also available on our website: www.glaucomaassociates.com. **Please bring all of your medicines, including all eye drops.** If old records are available, we would appreciate your bringing them with you or having the records faxed to us ahead of time. Our fax number is 214-739-8562.

Your physician will give you a comprehensive eye examination. Routinely, a special exam called gonioscopy will be performed. This helps the doctor to decide what type of glaucoma is present. **You should anticipate having the pupil of your eye dilated.** This will result in blurred vision for 3-4 hours. **We ask that someone be present to drive you home safely.** Additional tests may be required to document the status of your eyes, such as photography of the optic nerve, plotting of the visual field and pachymetry.

The information obtained from the course of your examination will be used to formulate a treatment plan. If a medical or surgical problem is diagnosed, your physician may recommend prescription medication, further testing, laser treatment or an operative procedure. Every attempt will be made to educate you concerning your condition.

The risks and benefits of the treatment plan will be reviewed with you, and a consultation letter will be sent to the referring physician or doctor of your choice.

Refraction (checking glasses) is not part of your comprehensive eye exam. This is considered a separate service. We recommend this be done by your referring ophthalmologist or optometrist.

For your convenience, a map with directions on how to get to our office is enclosed. We suggest you park in the parking garage behind the building. Parking is free.

Please bring your insurance card to this appointment so we can file your insurance for you. Your insurance reimbursement may not cover the full cost of your studies or physician services. **Regardless of insurance, payment of services remains your responsibility.** Our patient accounts representative can answer any questions you may have.

We participate in the Medicare and Texas State Medicaid program, and we accept most POS, PPO and HMO plans. If you are an HMO patient, it is your responsibility to obtain a referral prior to your appointment. **Failure to do so will result in your having to pay for services in full or the appointment may be rescheduled so that the referral may be obtained. Co-pays and co-insurance are due at time of service.** If you are a self-pay patient, full payment is expected the same day services are rendered. We accept cash, check, money order, debit and all major credit cards.

We ask that you arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled time to allow for check-in. New patient appointments are available on a limited basis; with this in mind, kindly notify us at least 24 hours prior to your scheduled time if you are unable to keep your appointment. Failure to do so may result in a \$25 missed-appointment fee.

Cellular phones, food and drinks are not allowed in our office. For your convenience, a snack room is located on the first floor of our building, across from the security guard's desk.

Our physicians and staff are looking forward to meeting you. Our goal is for you to have a positive experience at Glaucoma Associates of Texas. However, if any problems occur during your visit please notify me.

Sincerely,

Sheila Smalls
New Patient Coordinator