

Policy for Vision Therapy Services

In alignment with the guiding principles of Enhanced Care, ICBC considers funding treatment for evidence-informed care. ICBC utilizes independent third party(ies) to review the latest medical and scientific information on various treatments and practices to help inform our funding approach.

Update: Policy on Vision Therapy Services

Effective November 30, 2023, for customers with a date of loss (DOL) on May 1, 2021, or later ICBC may pay for vision therapy when treatment addresses symptoms related to a mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) sustained because of the motor vehicle accident (MVA), and the treatment is deemed necessary or advisable. Treatment must contribute to rehabilitation, lessen disability, or facilitate recovery.

Vision therapy treatment is provided by a Doctor of Optometry, registered with the College of Optometrists of BC and who is also a fellow or associate of the College of Optometrists in Vision Development (COVD) or Canadian equivalent. Where an Optometrist delegates tasks to another individual, such as a technician, the expectation is that this is done in accordance with the College of Optometrists of BC and overseen by the delegating Optometrist. Funding consideration must meet all of the below criteria:

- ✓ Has a confirmed diagnosis by a physician or nurse practitioner of a mTBI sustained as a result of the MVA and is no longer in the acute phase of their recovery;
- ✓ Has an additional diagnosis of convergence insufficiency secondary to the mTBI
- ✓ Was referred for vision therapy by a physician or nurse practitioner; and
- ✓ Demonstrates persistent disabling symptoms for a period of longer than 21 days that include all of the following:
 1. Double vision or blurry vision when looking at near objects with both eyes open;
 2. Headaches while reading; and
 3. Eye strain

Important: ICBC is last payer for this therapy; therefore, the insured person must seek reimbursement from other insurance coverage if available, before submitting expenses to ICBC.