



Appropriate Billing for Optiwave Refractive Analysis (ORA) Performed During Cataract Surgery

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Optiwave Refractive Analysis or ORA System™ provides surgeons with real-time measurements of a patient's eye during their cataract procedure.

As a non-covered procedure, it is appropriate to charge patients out-of-pocket only in these three scenarios:

1. Part of the premium IOL package
2. The patient had given consent to a premium IOL, but intraoperatively the surgeon had to convert to a standard IOL (rare) and
3. Post-refractive cases

Facts:

- The Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) is not required for Medicare Part B patients.
- Practices should develop their own written explanation and associated costs for patients to sign in agreement.
- Scenarios 2 and 3 are expected to be unusual rather than routine.
- Inappropriate billing is a complaint filed by patients to the Academy's Ethics department as well as to Medicare Contractors and commercial payers.
- Incorrect billing is violation of payer contracts and perceived as defrauding beneficiaries.