Health & Wellness
Vision Care
Industry Snapshot

Overview:

An Ophthalmologist is an eye M.D.; a medical doctor specializing in eye and vision care. Ophthalmologists are trained to provide the full spectrum of eye care, from exams and diagnosis, to prescribing glasses or contact lenses, to complex and delicate eye surgery. Eye research may be a specialty as well.

Undetected loss of vision can also cause confusion or depression. People with diabetes can have bleeding of the retina and a higher risk of developing glaucoma, cataracts and diabetic retinopathy. At least 50% of those diagnosed with glaucoma are unaware of their condition; and 61% of Americans require some form of vision correction.

Services:

An Ophthalmologist provides total eye care. This includes:

- ✓ routine eye exams
- ✓ diagnosing of existing or potential eye diseases
- ✓ working collaboratively with other Medical professionals
- ✓ performing surgeries to treat Cataracts and Glaucoma
- ✓ visual field testing, retinal eye testing and photographs for Glaucoma patients
- ✓ prescribing timely and appropriate medications

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Provider Selection

Specialization:
After four years of medical school and a year of internship, every ophthalmologist spends a minimum of three years of residency (hospital-based training) in ophthalmology. During residency, the eye M.D. receives special training in all aspects of eye care, including prevention, diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment of eye conditions and diseases. An additional year or two may be spent in training for a sub-specialty.

Preparation:
- ✓ Know your parents prior optical history.
- ✓ Its helpful to have possession of former records.
- ✓ When was the last optical visit, and the reason for the visit?
- ✓ Will you be the person responsible for signing for consent of services?
- ✓ If financial options need to be considered, contact your insurance company.

Evaluation:
- ✓ Is the doctor accepting new patients?
- ✓ Are patients with special conditions (Alzheimer's/Dementia) considered?
- ✓ Does the doctor offer the latest services in optical technology?
- ✓ Is the office wheel chair accessible?
- ✓ Please provide references.
- ✓ Does the doctor have a specialization in treating seniors?

Answers for ELDERS RADIO SHOW

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iHeart RADIO

If you or your family are navigating senior care, discover the Answers for Elders Radio Show! Learn from our many podcasts here, our live broadcast 820AM or 1590AM on Saturdays and Sundays in Western Washington, or on iHeartRadio, worldwide. Now in our third year, Answers for Elders is "the voice of senior care", featuring content on all of the Decision Guide topics here, and even more!

Hosted by Suzanne Newman, she intertwines her own journey as caregiving her mother. Through her real-life experience, and her passion for supporting families, caregivers, and seniors, she interviews top providers in senior care. Coming at it from a family member's perspective, you will discover how to make later life care decisions a lot easier no matter what stage you are in. Because eldercare is interconnected, there are many moving parts and options that you may not know about. Answers for Elders and the most respected eldercare experts in the industry help you learn through their knowledge and wisdom. Each week we tackle subjects like caregiving, housing, living options, aging in place, healthcare, financial, legal questions and more.

Understanding the different options helps make later life a lot easier. It also helps you be more proactive before changes need to be made so that you can make the best decisions for you and your family members.

ABOUT THE HOST

Suzanne Perkins Newman, Founder & CEO, Former Family Caregiver
My Passion: Advocacy for Caregivers & Seniors

- Host of the Answers for Elders Radio Show!
- Founder/CEO Answers for Elders, Inc.
- Family Caregiver "Coach" • Former Family Caregiver for her own Mother
- Author of *The Advocate's Heart: Finding Your Real Strength in Caring for Aging Loved Ones*
- 25-Year Executive in Advertising, Publishing & Digital Media

Answers for ELDERS SENIOR ADVOCATE NETWORK

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Sign up for our Senior Advocate Network HERE to be on the inside list of new developments in senior care, and receive our newsletter, Sage Advice!

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