

## **ASCRS Policy Statement**

### **Patient Access to Medically Appropriate Ophthalmic Care and Technology**

The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) supports patient access to medically appropriate surgical procedures, technologies, pharmaceuticals, implants, devices, and related services that have demonstrated meaningful clinical benefit through scientific evidence, clinical experience, and peer-reviewed evaluation.

ASCRS recognizes that innovation in ophthalmic care has significantly improved visual outcomes, patient safety, quality of life, functional independence, and long-term healthcare for millions of patients. The Society further recognizes that many advances in ophthalmic (e.g., cataract, refractive, corneal, glaucoma) surgery have become accepted standards of care through demonstrated clinical value and widespread physician experience.

ASCRS encourages the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), commercial insurers, and other healthcare payors to develop coverage and reimbursement policies that are evidence-based, transparent, timely, and centered on patient welfare. Coverage determinations should appropriately consider peer-reviewed scientific literature, real-world clinical outcomes, physician expertise, and the evolving standard of care.

The Society is concerned that denial of coverage or inadequate reimbursement for clinically beneficial services, technologies, instruments, implants, pharmaceuticals, or procedures may unnecessarily limit patient access to appropriate care, impact eye health, impede innovation, increase long-term healthcare costs, and interfere with the physician-patient relationship.

ASCRS believes that treating physicians, exercising independent clinical judgment in consultation with informed patients, should retain the ability to recommend therapies and technologies that are medically appropriate for individual patient circumstances. Payment policies should support, not impede, the delivery of safe, effective, and evidence-based ophthalmic care.

Consistent with its status as a nonprofit professional medical society, ASCRS does not endorse specific commercial products, manufacturers, or proprietary technologies except through established Society processes. Rather, the Society advocates for fair and scientifically grounded coverage and reimbursement frameworks that promote patient access to beneficial advances in ophthalmic care.

Accordingly, ASCRS supports reimbursement and coverage policies that facilitate patient access to clinically beneficial ophthalmic services and technologies that have demonstrated value in improving patient outcomes and advancing the quality of eye care.

*Approved by the ASCRS executive board July 30, 2026*