



5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR EYE DOCTOR

Kickback-Free Cataract Surgery Checklist

Take this to your next appointment

✓ Why was I referred to this surgeon?

Did your doctor give a clear, specific reason? If the answer is vague like “That’s just who we use” or “They’re our go-to,” ask for more detail. Referrals should be based on outcomes—not hidden deals.

✓ Do you receive anything for referring me—especially if I choose a premium lens or laser-assisted surgery? Why was this specific intraocular lens (IOL) recommended?

Ask directly. You have the right to transparency. Recommendations should be based on your medical need—not financial incentives.

✓ Are there other options for surgeons or lens types? Can I get a second opinion?

If not, why? Kickback-free providers support informed choices and explain your options without steering you toward a profit-sharing surgeon or lens implant choice. If you feel pressured to stay with the in-house or “partner” surgeon, take a step back.

✓ What are the surgeon’s credentials?

Are they board-certified? Fellowship-trained? Look for independent reviews and check for public complaints. Top-tier surgeons welcome transparency and scrutiny.

✓ Is there any “partnership” or business relationship between my doctor and surgeon?

Ask about ownership or business ties. If your referring doctor shares an office, staff, or ownership with your surgeon, it may be a conflict of interest. *Be cautious if you see marketing materials—like window decals, posters, and brochures—promoting a specific outside cataract surgery center in your doctor’s office. These may signal a financial relationship that may not prioritize your best interests.*

BONUS TIP: Ask about comanagement.

If you see this term on your provider’s website, marketing materials, or patient consent forms, ask whether your doctor receives any financial benefit from your surgery or follow-up care. Though legal in some cases when billed to your insurance plan, comanagement is often misused to disguise illegal kickbacks.

Choose a surgeon who earns your trust—not your doctor’s incentives.

Desert Vision Center is proud to be 100% kickback-free. 100% focused on you.

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