

“How to Spot a Kickback-Free Cataract Surgeon”

Your guide to choosing ethical, patient-first eye care



Why This Guide Matters:

Not all cataract surgeons are chosen for their skill. Many are chosen because of illegal financial incentives—kickbacks—from referring providers. These arrangements are not only unethical and illegal, they can compromise your care.

At **Desert Vision Center**, we believe you deserve better. This guide will help you spot the red flags and know what to look for when choosing your cataract surgeon.

1 Ask: “Why did you refer me to this surgeon?”

What to watch for:

- Vague answers like “We always refer there” or “They’re our go-to.”
- No discussion about surgical outcomes, experience or subspecialty training.

What ethical providers say:

- We refer to Dr. Tokuhara at Desert Vision Center because of his excellent outcomes, ethical practices, and personalized care.



2 Look for financial transparency

Red flag:

- Referring offices share space, staff, or billing systems with the surgical practice without disclosing a formal business relationship.

Ethical standard:

- Referring providers disclose any ownership or financial relationship openly—or better yet, avoid them altogether.



3 No Pressure to Stay In-Network

What to avoid:

- Feeling pressured to stay with the in-house or “partner” surgeon.
- Limited or no discussion of alternatives

Kickback-free tip:

- Ethical providers offer you options and encourage second opinions when appropriate.

4 *Check Surgeon Credentials and Independence*

Do your homework:

- Is the cataract surgeon board-certified?
- Do they have fellowship training or unique expertise?
- Are they part of a kickback-free, independently owned practice?

Hint:

- Desert Vision Center is proud to check every one of those boxes.



5 *Watch for Marketing That Looks Like Medicine*

Unethical signal:

- Referrals come from flashy marketing, discounts, or package deals bundled by optometrists or general clinics.
- If your doctor's office displays marketing (like window decals) for external surgery centers, it may point to a financial tie.

Ethical clue:

- Referrals are made by medical doctors who have no financial gain in your decision and only your health in mind.



Choose Vision with Integrity.

When you know what to look for, you'll never settle for anything less than what's right.



Desert Vision Center is 100% kickback-free. We never buy referrals. We earn them—patient by patient, outcome by outcome.