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Newsletter - April 2010

In this issue

[We're Here For You!](#)

[L.A. Lakers Co-owner,
Mrs. Buss](#)

[Medical Savings
Accounts](#)

[LASIK](#)

[Dr. Aizuss
Speaks Out](#)

[Give Yourself
a Gift](#)

We're Here For You!

We'd like to remind all of our patients that we always have a physician on-call at all times, including nights and weekends.

If you have an ocular emergency please contact the office number (818) 990-3623 for assistance.

[Visit Our Website](#)
[Directions](#)
[Contact Us](#)

Testimonials

L.A. Lakers Co-owner, Mrs. Buss



Dr. Zeegen recently implanted Restor lenses in Lakers Co-owner Mrs. Buss. With the Restor's amazing ability to provide for crisp distance and near vision, Mrs. Buss is thrilled to no longer need glasses to read the Lakers program or to watch her winning team play.

Good luck in the playoffs!

[Click here for more information about Dr. Zeegen](#)

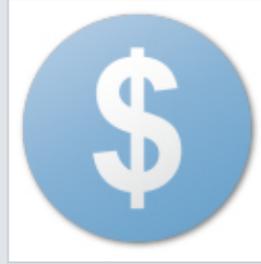
Three generations of perfect cataract surgery in our family, thanks to Dr. Zeegen and its great to see without glasses!
– M.T.

Dr. Aizuss is Great! He is very professional, gave me confidence and eliminated my concerns and fears. It's wonderful not looking for my glasses.
– C.H.

I love waking up in the morning and being able to see. Not having to

Medical Savings Accounts

These programs are also called "Flexible Spending Accounts" or "Cafeteria Plans", and they allow employees to set aside pre-tax dollars to use for medical expenses. Laser Vision Correction, Premium IOL's (Intraocular lens implants), as well as Cosmetic Eyelid Surgery are all qualified procedures within this program. Many of our patients have taken advantage of these programs that offer substantial tax savings.



[Click here for more information about Medical Savings Accounts](#)

grab for my glasses and put in my contacts is amazing! I have been a patient of Dr. Elkins for over 10 years. He and his staff do a good job at being very thorough
- M.G.

Dr Saulny - is a fabulous doctor! Fabulous cosmetic surgeon!
- D.N

I drove to see Dr. Kramar today without any glasses. I can now read street signs, that I couldn't see before. I am very pleased with my cataract surgery and the care I received from Dr. Kramar.
- M.P.

LASIK

YOUR BEST SUMMER AWAITS YOU!

With our new pricing, LASIK has never been more affordable!!
Financing also available for as low as \$199.99 *per month.

Call today and schedule your free consultation, and see if LASIK is for you.

Peter Zeegen, M.D. F.A.C.S.
David Aizuss, M.D. F.A.C.S.
Brad Elkins, M.D. F.A.C.S.

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* Based on approved credit

SUMMER'S COMING!



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[September 2009](#)

[July 2009](#)

[May 2009](#)

[April 2009](#)

[March 2009](#)

[February 2009](#)

Dr. Aizuss Speaks Out

"An Issue of Quality"

Featured in the Southern California Physicians Magazine 2009

As we monitor the battle over health care reform and pay heed to the proposals of President Obama and the Congress it is important that we continue to pay attention to ongoing government oversight of medical practice. Many physicians including me feel that health insurance reform is critically needed to ensure the wide availability of medical insurance to our patients without excluding individuals for insignificant preexisting conditions. On a daily basis I have patients asking me to write letters on their behalf seeking to overturn health insurance exclusions of future medical care for their eyes because they had a single episodic eye problem, for example a contact lens associated acute infection or an incipient cataract that may take forty years to mature or an episode of ocular inflammation. However, we must also be vigilant to monitor current government initiatives to restrict our patients' access to care under the guise of cost containment.

Recently, the Center for Medicare Services (CMS) contracted with Optimal Solutions Group, LLC which in conjunction with the Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality, a Medicare quality improvement organization developed a cataract outcome measure that would require hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgery centers to determine whether a patient planning to undergo cataract surgery would achieve a 20% improvement in vision and if not, disallow the procedure. First, arbitrarily pulling the standard of "a 20% improvement in vision" out of the proverbial hat has no epidemiologic or evidence based support. Why 20% and not 30% or 15%? Nor can I as an ophthalmologist even know what that means. Is it a 20% improvement in snellen acuity? Is it a 20% improvement in contrast sensitivity? Is it a 20% improvement in visual tasks that affect activities of daily living and if so, how do we as clinicians measure this? The CMS based their proposal on two studies both over 15 years old. Neither paper cited methods of cataract surgery employed and even if they had, they become irrelevant since techniques in use today bear little semblance to those used 15 years ago. Instrumentation, intraocular lens implants and patient expectations are very different than they were over a decade ago.

Interestingly, 20 years ago Medicare required preauthorization for cataract surgery in an effort to reduce costs and surgical volume. That program failed when the cost of monitoring for unnecessary surgery turned out to be far greater than the savings accrued from preventing such supposedly unnecessary surgery!

As President Obama and Congress hope to pay for health care reform from so called Medicare savings, we all expect such savings will come from reduced physician fees and strictures on purported unnecessary procedures and medical care. We must be vigilant that CMS does not impose restrictions now without factual evidence-based studies that demonstrate how savings can be achieved without diminishing our patients' care or access to care.

David H. Aizuss, M.D.

Past President, Los Angeles County Medical Association

[Click here for more information about Dr. Aizuss](#)

Give Yourself a Gift



Give Yourself a Gift

CALL TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Ophthalmology Associates

818-990-3623

- **BOTOX® cosmetic \$11 per unit**
Receive a \$50 manufacturers rebate on treatments over \$200
- **Juvederm™ \$550 per syringe**
- **Receive both on the same day and receive a \$100 gift certificate for your next treatment**
- **Latisse buy 2 for \$220, or buy 3 and get a 4th free**

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DO SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF

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