VISIT PROGRESS

Check-In (5-10 mins)
The process of checking in consists of verifying your information, signing specific forms and paying your copayment (if required for your visit).

Work-Up & Dilation (20-45 mins)
A tech will confirm allergies, medications and medical history. You may also receive dilation drops during this step.

Testing (20-60 mins)
You may have a variety of tests done depending on your reason for visit. These tests may be performed in different rooms or departments of the clinic based on equipment location.

Doctor Exam (10-30 mins)
During your visit, you may see more than one doctor, including an exam by a resident or fellow.

Treatment (30-45 mins)
You may receive treatment on the same day of clinic that may consist of an injection or laser to treat your condition.

Check-Out (5-10 mins)
After your visit is complete, the check-out process might include scheduling a follow-up appointment and receiving additional documentation as part of your home instructions.

Overall visit duration could be up to or beyond 3 hours. Please return this passport at the end of your visit to check-out staff.
FAQs about your visit:

Why is dilation of the pupils important?
A thorough, dilated eye exam allows your ophthalmologist to do a complete exam of your eye. Several eye diseases and conditions are detected at their earliest stages during a thorough eye exam.

How long will my eyes be dilated?
Dilating eye drops usually last about 4 hours, but this varies among patients. Pupil dilation tends to last longer in people with lighter colored eyes (irises), and may stay dilated for longer than 24 hours.

Who are all the people I’m seeing during my visit today?
You will likely meet several individuals during your exam. These include ophthalmic technicians, photographers, ultrasonographers, or nurses who will obtain important information from you and your eyes before your exam with the doctor. They will sometimes perform testing on the eyes, too.

You may also meet a trainee. Mass. Eye and Ear is a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School. This is where health care providers train to become doctors and specialists in medicine. Our diverse and comprehensive team will help provide you with the highest level of clinical care.

How are additional tests chosen?
We use a wide variety of tests and procedures to examine your eyes. An extended retinal visit can take up to three hours or more, depending on the doctor and the number and complexity of tests required to fully evaluate your vision and the health of your eyes.