

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Laurie K. Brown, COMT, COE, Administrator
Drs. Fine, Hoffman & Packer, LLC
1550 Oak St., Ste. 5
Eugene, OR 97401
541-687-2110
lkbrown@finemd.com**

**New Medicare Policy Allows Eugene and Springfield Seniors
to Choose crystalens™**

**Expanded Reimbursement Includes Breakthrough Presbyopia-Correcting
Intraocular Lens Now Available at Drs. Fine, Hoffman and Packer, LLC.**

Eugene, Oregon, May 19, 2005 – The crystalens™ option now can be privately purchased by Eugene and Springfield Medicare beneficiaries thanks to a new Medicare policy announced this week. Crystalens is the first and only FDA-approved naturally focusing (accommodating) vision-correction lens replacement for adults with cataracts and presbyopia.

Crystalens is an advanced technology intraocular lens (IOL) currently available, yet the previous Medicare reimbursement policy did not allow its beneficiaries to opt for this breakthrough technology for cataract surgery.

Seniors on Medicare now can opt for the presbyopia-correcting crystalens, which focuses and moves in the eye like the natural lens thanks to its proprietary accommodating characteristics. The crystalens is designed to treat two conditions:

cataract removal with lens replacement (a procedure covered by Medicare) and presbyopia (a non-covered service). Patients who select crystalens will receive the standard Medicare reimbursement for cataract surgery, and can now pay privately for the presbyopic portion of the treatment.

Presbyopia is an inevitable age-related eye condition that makes it difficult to read or see objects up-close without the use of reading glasses. Presbyopia is the first sign of a cataract and is the most prevalent eye condition in America. It causes the crystalline lens to increasingly stiffen, lose flexibility and cloud, diminishing its focusing ability.

Crystalens corrects vision at all distances and in most cases eliminates the need for glasses and contacts for everyday tasks. Its ability to focus at all distances frees most patients from the need for glasses following cataract surgery. In clinical trials, nearly three-times the number of patients (85 percent) who received the crystalens could see at all distances compared to a standard IOL. By using the eye's muscle to move the lens back and forward naturally, patients can focus through a continuous range of vision including near, far and everywhere in between. All other intraocular lenses are designed to remain fixed in the eye.

Drs. I. Howard Fine, Richard Hoffman and Mark Packer are one of a select group of practices that are continually involved in the research and clinical investigation of the latest intraocular lens designs and cataract removal technologies. Due to our relationship with the ophthalmic industry, we are able to offer some of the most advanced and safest cataract surgery technology and the most advantageous intraocular lens designs to our patients many years before they become available to the general public. Drs. Fine, Hoffman and Packer in Eugene, Oregon were among the first physicians in the country to treat patients with the Crystalens intraocular lens implant.

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