November is National Diabetes Awareness Month  
A Message from the Wisconsin Optometric Association

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month, and the members of the Wisconsin Optometric Association (WOA) encourage all adults and children to visit their eye doctor for a comprehensive dilated vision and eye health exam to ensure the early detection and prevention of complications from diabetes. Doctors of optometry are primary eye care providers that play an essential role in the diagnosis and care of diabetic patients.

Eye doctors can detect many diseases such as diabetes that affect our blood vessel because the eye is the only place on the body where blood vessels can be seen without having to look through skin or tissue. Left undiagnosed and untreated, diabetes can have damaging effects on a person’s vision and eye health. Significant complications from untreated diabetes include diabetic retinopathy, the most common diabetic eye disease and a leading cause of blindness among American adults. Often, diabetic retinopathy has no obvious symptoms for recognition in its early stages.

Regardless of whether or not a person has been diagnosed with diabetes, WOA members are encouraging people to schedule a comprehensive eye exam with a licensed eye doctor as a part of their proper overall health care regimen. The November 2013 issue of “Eyes on the Capitol” provides details on eye doctors’ role in the diagnosis and care of the diabetic patient, discusses the potential complications posed to vision and eye health by diabetes, and provides tips for protecting your vision.

The Wisconsin Optometric Association is a statewide professional organization with membership consisting of doctors of optometry that is affiliated with the AOA.