



Public Health System

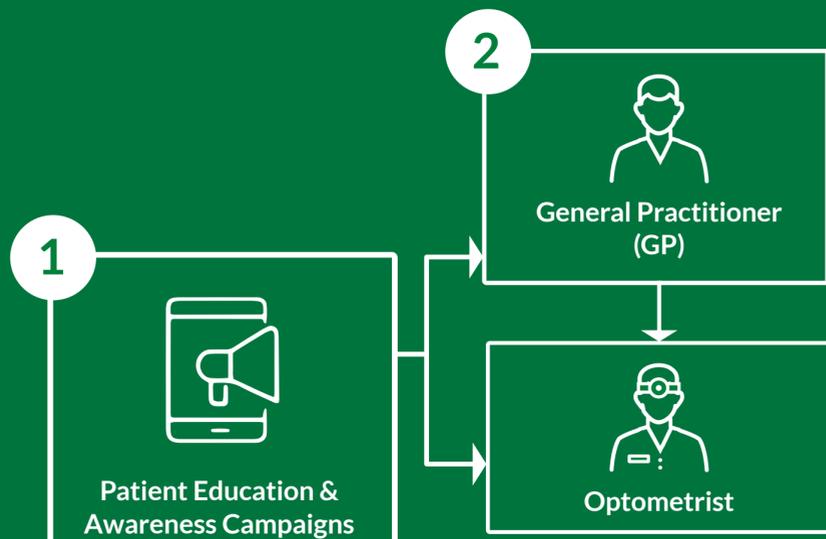
Provision by federal plan (Servizio Sanitario Nazionale, or SSN) and delivered by nineteen regional and two autonomous provincial health authorities.
Residents can get free or subsidized services such as eye exams and certain eye surgeries.

Private Health System

There has been an increase in private services which provides quicker access to care.

First point-of-care to screening

! 1. Lack of screening sites, treating physicians, or equipment and technology in certain areas, particularly those that are rural and remote.



! 2. Limited information and lack of knowledge about patient organizations prevent individuals from receiving eye screening.
3. Lack of national screening programs to facilitate regular eye screenings, leading to delays in diagnoses and treatment.

Referral to specialist

Triage by specialist

Days to weeks wait time

If ocular condition is suspected

Referral

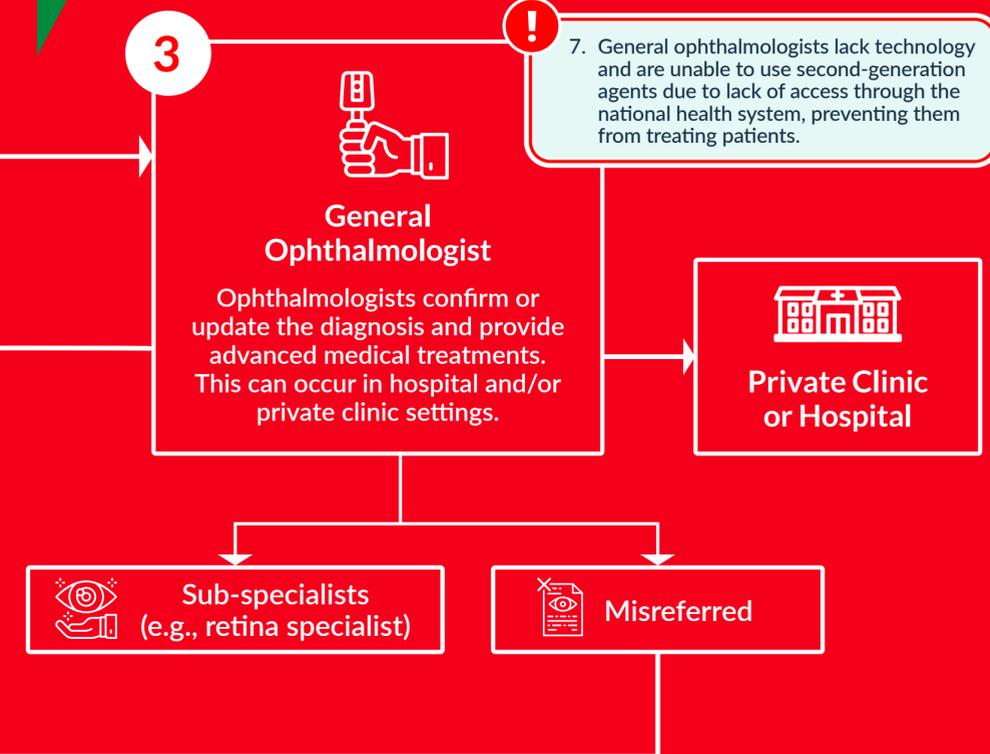
If ocular condition is suspected*

! 6. Lack of clear guidelines on how to make referrals, especially for Italian optometrists, leads to unnecessary referrals due to misreads, misdiagnoses, or missed cases.

Confirmation of diagnosis and treatment

! 4. In the public sector, wait times can be long. There is a significant delay in visiting a general ophthalmologist after obtaining a referral.
5. A new barrier is that reimbursements for cataract surgery have decreased, causing facilities to stop performing the surgery due to low reimbursements.

! 7. General ophthalmologists lack technology and are unable to use second-generation agents due to lack of access through the national health system, preventing them from treating patients.



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General Ophthalmologist
Ophthalmologists confirm or update the diagnosis and provide advanced medical treatments. This can occur in hospital and/or private clinic settings.

Sub-specialists (e.g., retina specialist)

Misreferred