

A woman with long dark hair and glasses is looking down at a laptop screen. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an office or professional setting. A large white number '4' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

4

THINGS TO CONSIDER

in Selecting a Prosthetic Eye Provider



*A Guide for Adult and Pediatric
Patients and Families*



Carolina Eye Prosthetics

Restoring Confidence

If you are considering a prosthetic eye, you've already started navigating a whole new world of emotions, medical terms, and procedures. Whether you've lost an eye due to a traumatic situation, such as an accident or cancer, or you have a child who was born with microphthalmia, it's normal to have a lot of questions. It's also understandable that you are experiencing a range of emotions—from grief, fear, and anxiety to anticipation and hope.

Getting a prosthetic eye is a powerful step in the physical and emotional healing process after losing an eye. It can help restore your appearance, but more importantly, it can rebuild your confidence.

Once you have decided to pursue or learn more about a prosthetic eye after surgery, it's natural to wonder how to pick the best provider for your needs. A Google search has likely turned up a number of ophthalmologists and prosthetic eye offices in your region. This guide outlines four key factors you should consider as you explore ophthalmologists, along with questions to ask. This information is designed to help you select a provider with confidence.

#1

Finding the Best Ocularist for Your Needs

Find a provider that offers custom eyes, not stock.

If you select an eye from a stock of existing prostheses, it won't provide an exact fit or closely match your other eye. This can lead to discomfort and self-consciousness about your appearance.

A custom prosthesis is specifically crafted by an ocularist to fit your eye socket and match your companion eye. Fine details, such as the iris color, pupil size, and even tiny vessels on the eye will be included in a custom prosthesis to restore your natural appearance.

Questions to ask:

"Are your prosthetic eyes from a stock selection or created on a custom basis for each patient?"

"What process would be used to fit my prosthesis? How do you ensure a good fit?"

#2

Look for a provider who is board-certified, indicating specialized training and skills.

Seek an ocularist who is certified by the National Examining Board of Ocularists (NEBO). They will carry the initials BCO, for board-certified ocularist, after their name. Professionals with this certification have completed a five-year apprenticeship that includes 10,000 hours of practical training and 750 hours of related course instruction. It's also helpful to locate an ocularist who has some experience after board certification.

Questions to ask:

"Are you board certified by the National Examining Board of Ocularists?"

"How long have you been board certified?"





#3

Select a provider who offers follow-up care.

The American Society of Ocularists recommends visiting your ocularist at least every year if you're an adult. Children under the age of three should visit every three months, while children nine and younger and under should visit every six months.

These regular visits help prevent any problems, ensure your prosthesis is comfortable, and can also extend the life of your prosthetic eye. Your ocularist will:

- Restore the high polish to the eye
- Check the eye socket and surrounding tissue to ensure they are healthy
- Make sure the prosthesis is still fitting snugly and is correctly aligned
- Decide whether more frequent polish reviews are needed

Questions to ask:

How often do you see patients after the initial eye is completed and fitted?

When polishing the eye, how do you protect the shape of the prosthesis?



#4

Consider communication and confidence.

You want to find an ocularist who is dedicated to building patient-provider relationships. Take the time to talk to any potential ocularist's office on the phone during your selection process. Do they welcome questions and make you feel comfortable? Do they offer helpful information? The ability to easily communicate and ask questions is important.

You should also feel like you can trust a potential ocularist. In addition to evaluating a provider's communication style, take the time to research what patients are saying about the ocularist through online reviews and by talking to your eye surgeon.

Questions to ask:

"Ask your eye surgeon or regular eye doctor for recommendations of an ocularist or if they know anything about the reputation of any ocularists you are considering."

"How does the ocularist's office handle questions that arise between visits?"

"What types of patient reviews and comments are you finding on Google, the provider's Facebook page, or other online sources?"

Carolina Eye Prosthetics

*Creating Customized
Prosthetics and Caring
Patient Relationships*

Customer communication and service are at the heart of everything we do.

We recognize the physical and emotional journey patients have navigated before arriving at our office. Our job is to help you discover your confidence again.

Our two board-certified ocularists have more than 20 years of combined experience creating and fitting customized eye prostheses. Anna Boyd Jefferson, B.C.O., and Emma Boyd Nadolski, B.C.O., are committed to helping patients feel at ease, answering questions, and offering excellence in the comfort and appearance of each prosthetic eye.



Anna Boyd Jefferson, B.C.O.



Emma Boyd Nadolski, B.C.O.



What Our Clients Are Saying



“Carolina Eye Prosthetics has given me self-confidence. Everyone is amazed by how close my prosthetic looks to the real thing.”

~ Regina Payne

“This eye is a lot better than the first one I had from another provider. I don’t even know it’s in there. And the color - Emma is an artist, she really is. You can’t tell the difference between my right eye and my left eye, which is fake and which one isn’t. My eye turns the direction of my eye; it’s really phenomenal, the work, the day [of the appointment]. She makes it perfect.”

~ Donald Whitaker

“When I had to have my eye enucleated due to cancer, I thought life could never be the same again. Then my doctor referred me to Carolina Eye Prosthetics, and it was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in quite a while. At first, I was skeptical, but Anna put me at such ease I didn’t have a worry after I had been there five minutes. The results were astonishing. I cannot even tell the difference between both eyes, and my friends and family have been absolutely amazed at the results.”

~ Elizabeth Thomas

Our services include:

- Video visits available for initial consultations
- Customized prostheses — most prosthetic eyes can be fitted and made in one day
- Precise fittings using the modified impression method for the best possible comfort, eye movement, and life-like appearance
- Custom conformers
- Conformer therapy for babies and children to treat microphthalmia
- Corneal scleral shells for blind eyes
- Refittings and adjustments
- Polishes and cleaning



Contact Us for a No-Cost Consultation

We offer consultations at no cost. We'll listen to your history and needs, discuss solutions, walk you through our process, and answer all of your questions.

Call us to schedule your consultation.

1-877-763-9393

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

 **Carolina** Eye Prosthetics

carolinaeyeprosthetics.com