Participation in the Refractive Surgery Program at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth includes the following requirements:

All service members must have a complete Navy Refractive Surgery Consult Form, including a signed optometric refraction on the form and the CO’s signature (or an officer with By Direction authority).

All enlisted members must have at least 12 months remaining on their current, “hard” EAOS from the date of surgery. We do not accept the projected, planned, intended, or “soft” EAOS. Members must be prepared to provide proof of the EAOS date they give us, prior to surgery. There are no waivers, no exceptions, to this requirement.

All officers must verify that they have at least 12 months remaining on active duty from the date of surgery.

Activated Reservists or FTS must have 12 months on written orders from the date of surgery.

All Class I, II and III Aviators are med-down for a minimum of 3 months for PRK, and a minimum of 2 weeks for LASIK.

Members stationed in the Hampton Roads, Virginia, area need to be available for ALL of the following:
- Two preop appointments before the surgery (usually a week or two prior) as assigned by the surgical coordinator.
- Up to 5 days of SIQ beginning on the surgery date (specific number of days determined by procedure).
- Postop exams at 2 weeks, 1 month, 3 months and 6 months after surgery (ship medical departments cannot perform these postop exams)
- No leaving the local area for 1 week after surgery
- No surgery within 90 days of deploying or of PCSing OCONUS
- The 6 month postop exam can be delayed (if necessary due to deployment) if indicated by the surgeon

Members stationed outside the Hampton Roads, Virginia, area can expect to need to be here for about 17 days. Subsequent postop exams can be performed by a military optometrist at the member’s duty station.

Members who have taken Accutane, Coradone, or Imitrex in the 6 months prior to the surgery date will be disqualified.

Females cannot be pregnant, breastfeeding, or less than 6 months postpartum on the surgery date.

All members must be 100% Fit for Full Duty and Worldwide Deployable to qualify for the Program.

All appointments will be assigned, and in nearly all cases are inflexible. Extremely high interest in our services necessitates that we cannot build open surgical appointments into our scheduling plan.

Members who no-show for assigned appointments, or who do not follow written instructions, will have their application returned to the database and will be contacted at a future date. These members should not expect to be rescheduled quickly.