

## Subchapter 7: Ophthalmic Procedures Endorsement

- (a) Upon application, the board shall certify eligible licensees to perform advanced procedures as defined in this Subchapter if the applicant meets requirements set forth by the board, and
- (i) The licensee shall demonstrate proof of licensure in good standing in the State of Vermont.
  - (ii) The licensee shall demonstrate proof of passage of the (1) Injections Skills and the (2) Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination administered by the National Board of Examiners or other accredited testing body/agency in Optometry or a similarly rigorous examination administered by a school or college of optometry and approved by the Board of Optometry.
  - (iii) The licensee shall demonstrate satisfactory completion of a course of instruction approved by the board that may include:
    - (1) the following didactic classroom instructions:
      - (a) laser physics, hazards, and safety;
      - (b) biophysics of lasers;
      - (c) laser application on clinical optometry;
      - (d) laser tissue interactions;
      - (e) laser indications, contraindications, and potential complications;
      - (f) gonioscopy;
      - (g) laser therapy for open angle glaucoma;
      - (h) laser therapy for angle closure glaucoma;
      - (i) posterior capsulotomy;
      - (j) common complications: lids, lashes, lacrimal system;
      - (k) medicolegal aspects of anterior segment procedures;
      - (l) peripheral iridotomy;
      - (m) laser trabeculoplasty;
      - (n) minor surgical procedures;
      - (o) overview of surgical instruments, asepsis, and O.S.H.A.;
      - (p) surgical anatomy of the eyelids;
      - (q) emergency surgical procedures;
      - (r) chalazion management;
      - (s) epiluminescence microscopy;
      - (t) local anesthesia: techniques and complications;
      - (u) anaphylaxis and other office emergencies;
      - (v) radiofrequency surgery;
      - (w) post-operative wound care;
    - (2) The following in laboratory instruction
      - (a) Lab based Laser instruction on the following;
        - (i) Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty
        - (ii) Peripheral Laser Iridotomy

- (iii) YAG capsulotomy
- (b) Lab based Injection instruction on the following;
  - (i) Injections into the eyelid
  - (ii) Injections of the subconjunctival space
  - (iii) Intramuscular injection
  - (iv) Subcutaneous injections
  - (v) Intravenous injections
  - (vi) Intralesional injections
- (c) Lab based surgical instruction on the following;
  - (i) Management of lid lesions.

(3) In vivo instruction for each procedure by an Ophthalmologist or Optometrist who is currently licensed to perform these procedures.

- (4) A board approved course of instruction shall be:
- (a) provided by an accredited optometry, osteopathy or medical school;
  - (b) a minimum of 32 clock hours in length;

(iv) Beginning with the graduating class of 2020 any optometrist who provides proof that he/she graduated from an optometry school whose program includes all of the training and testing requirements established by the board may be deemed to have met the requirements for certification outlined in section (III) to perform authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures.

(v) The board may waive any of the above requirements for an applicant optometrist who is licensed and currently in good standing in a United States jurisdiction having license requirements that are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter.

(b) An Optometrist licensed under this chapter who possesses the endorsement shall be able to perform the following advanced procedures.

- (i) Anterior segment laser procedures
  - (1) Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty
  - (2) Peripheral Laser Iridotomy
  - (3) Peripheral Laser Iridoplasty
  - (4) YAG capsulotomy

- (ii) Injections
  - (1) Injections applicable to the diagnostic care or treatment of the eye and its adnexa.

(iii) Eyelid Surgical Procedures

- (1) Removal of benign eyelid and eye growths
- (2) Chalazion Excision

- (iv) Other procedures as defined by the Board provided that they are
- (1) not on the prohibited list of procedures
  - (2) taught at a recognized school or college of optometry.

(c) The following ophthalmic surgery procedures are excluded from the practice of optometry, except for the preoperative and postoperative care of these procedures:

(i) The following procedures:

- (a) Retina laser procedures.
- (b) Penetrating keratoplasty or corneal transplant.
- (c) The administration of general anesthesia
- (d) Surgery done with general anesthesia

(ii) The following non-laser surgical procedures:

- (a) Surgery related to removal of the eye from a living human being.
- (b) Surgery requiring full thickness incision or excision of the cornea or sclera, excluding anterior chamber paracentesis to reduce intraocular pressure in patients with acute closed-angle glaucoma.
- (c) Surgery requiring incision of the iris and ciliary body, including diathermy or cryotherapy
- (d) Surgery requiring incision of the vitreous.
- (e) Surgery requiring incision of the retina.
- (f) Surgical extraction of the crystalline lens.
- (g) Surgical intraocular implants.
- (h) Incisional or excisional surgery of the extraocular muscles.
- (i) Surgery of the eyelid for suspect malignancies or for incisional cosmetic or mechanical repair of blepharochalasis, ptosis, and tarsorrhaphy..
- (j) Surgery of the bony orbit, including orbital implants.
- (k) Incisional or excisional surgery of the lacrimal system other than probing or related procedures.
- (l) Surgery requiring full thickness conjunctivoplasty with graft or flap.
- (m) Pterygium surgery.

(d) Prohibitions

- (1) Performing authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures without endorsement based upon the education requirements outlined in this subchapter shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of an optometry license and/or credentialing to perform authorized advanced procedures.
- (2) Performance of authorized ophthalmic surgery procedures by any person without a valid and current endorsement issued by the board to perform such procedures shall be considered a violation of Subchapter 4.