

S.64 – Rep. Stone Board of Medical Practice language

First: By striking out Sec. 2, 26 V.S.A. § 1716a, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. 26 V.S.A. § 1716a is amended to read:

§ 1716a. RENEWAL

(a) Licenses shall be renewed every two years upon payment of the required fee, provided that the person applying for renewal completes at least 40 hours of continuing education, approved by the Board, during the preceding two-year period and holds a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification.

(b) Licenseses holding an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty pursuant to subchapter 5 of this chapter shall, during each two-year licensure period, complete an additional five hours of continuing education, approved by the Board of Medical Practice, in the advanced procedures.

Second: By striking out Sec. 4, 26 V.S.A. § 1716a, 26 V.S.A. chapter 30, subchapter 5, in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4. 26 V.S.A. chapter 30, subchapter 5 is amended to read:

Subchapter 5. ~~Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents~~ Advanced Therapeutic Procedures

Specialty

§ 1723. ADVANCED THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES SPECIALTY

An optometrist who is licensed pursuant to subchapter 3 of this chapter may apply to the Board of Medical Practice for an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty that authorizes the optometrist to perform the advanced therapeutic procedures set forth in subdivision 1703(2)(A)(vi) of this chapter.

§ 1724. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADVANCED THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES SPECIALTY

(a) Generally. An optometrist shall obtain an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty in order to perform the advanced therapeutic procedures set forth in subdivision 1703(2)(A)(vi) of this chapter. The Board **of Medical Practice, in consultation with the Board of Optometry,** may grant an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty to an applicant who:

- (1) is licensed as an optometrist pursuant to subchapter 3 of this chapter;
- (2) meets the applicable requirements for education and demonstrated competency set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of this section; and
- (3) has completed the examination requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section.

(b) Educational requirements.

(1) In order to obtain an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty, an optometrist who graduated from an optometric school or college prior to 2019 shall have completed a postgraduate course sponsored by an organization approved by the Board of **Optometry Medical Practice** that had a minimum duration of 32 hours and included the following didactic classroom instruction:

- (A) laser physics, hazards, and safety;
- (B) biophysics of lasers;
- (C) laser application in 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 involving lids, lashes, and the 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 occupational safety and health considerations;

(P) surgical anatomy of the eyelids;

(Q) emergency surgical procedures;

(R) chalazion management;

(S) techniques for and complications with local anesthesia;

(T) anaphylaxis and other emergencies that may occur in an office setting;

(U) radiofrequency surgery;

(V) postoperative wound care; and

(W) clinical or laboratory experience that includes both video demonstration and in vitro observation or participation.

(2) An optometrist who graduated from an optometric school or college in 2019 or later shall not be required to complete additional postgraduate coursework in order to obtain an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty.

(c) Preceptorship requirements; competency demonstration.

(1) In order to demonstrate competency for an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty, an optometrist shall complete a preceptorship during which the optometrist gains at least eight hours of clinical training that is supervised by a preceptor and demonstrates clinical proficiency with hands-on experience performing the following procedures on live, human patients:D

(A) at least two laser trabeculoplasties;

(B) at least two posterior capsulotomies;

(C) at least two laser peripheral iridotomies;

(D) at least two chalazion excisions;

(E) at least two chalazion intralesional injections; and

(F) at least two excisions or drainages of an authorized lesion of two millimeters or greater in size.

(2) The preceptor shall be either:

(A) an optometrist with a substantially similar scope of practice who has been licensed in Vermont or any other U.S. jurisdiction to provide the advanced procedures set forth in subdivision 1703(2)(A)(vi) of this chapter for at least three years; or

(B) an ophthalmologist.

(3) The preceptorship shall involve direct and in-person supervision of the optometrist by the preceptor.

(4) The preceptorship shall take place in a state in which the preceptor is licensed and authorized to perform the advanced procedures.

(5) The preceptor shall certify that the optometrist has competently completed the required procedures and provide a log of the completed procedures to the Board of **Medical Practice**.

(d) Examination requirements. The applicant shall successfully pass written and clinical examinations administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO), including the NBEO Injections Skill Examination (ISE), the NBEO Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE), and any other examination required by the Board by rule.

(e) Advanced therapeutic procedures specialty by endorsement.

(1) The Board of **Medical Practice** may issue an advanced therapeutic procedures specialty to an applicant who is licensed and in good standing in another U.S. jurisdiction and who:

(A) has an expanded scope of practice that is substantially equivalent to or broader than the expanded scope of practice permitted by this subchapter; and

(B) has been in good standing in the expanded scope of practice in the other jurisdiction for at least three years.

(2) An optometrist whose advanced therapeutic procedures specialty was issued by endorsement pursuant to this subsection may serve as a preceptor in this State.

§ 1725. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

An optometrist shall report any adverse event related to an advanced procedure **to the Boards of Optometry and of Medical Practice** within 30 days following the event.