

I am a Urology surgeon from Rutland Regional Medical Center and I am very concerned about the proposed optometric scope expansion.

After medical school I had to undergo 5 years of surgical training, doing thousands of hours of supervised surgery before I was allowed to independently perform surgical procedures. There is no “easy” or “simple” surgery, it only looks “easy” in experienced hands. Optometrists have no required or standardized surgical training, ophthalmologists have 4+ years of rigorous training. To allow to someone to practice surgery without this training is highly irresponsible and puts patients at risk.

To solve a problem of shortage of eye surgeons, you hire more eye surgeons, instead of letting unqualified people perform surgery and damage someone’s eyes.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope you will agree that surgery should be performed by surgeons.

Sincerely,

Zita Ficko, MD
Medical Director of Marble Valley Urology
Rutland Regional Medical Center