



American Optometric Association

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AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

GUIDELINES FOR

DELINEATION OF CLINICAL PRIVILEGES

FOR OPTOMETRY

INTRODUCTION

Delineation of privileges refers to the process by which clinical privileges are requested, recommended, and granted.

An optometrist who is licensed to practice optometry in the state is eligible to apply for hospital privileges and/or medical staff membership and to request permission to provide patient care services independently in the hospital, within the limits based on his/her professional license, experience, competence, ability, and judgment. These services may include but are not limited to general optometric services, pre and postoperative eye care, emergency eye care services, and the use of pharmaceuticals in the diagnosis and treatment of eye disease as well as optometric specialty areas such as contact lens, low vision rehabilitation, and vision therapy services.

Evaluation of the optometrist's competence to carry out the diagnostic and treatment procedures requested should be performed by the applicant's peers. If optometrists are not already members of the medical staff, the hospital should seek outside consultation from the optometric profession so as to obtain peer recommendations. The granting of initial or renewed/revised clinical privileges should be based on fair, objective analysis and uniformly applied requirements as those used in evaluating other medical specialties.

The Guidelines for Delineation of Clinical Privileges for Optometry are designed to serve as models for hospitals to establish, review, and modify hospital specific criteria for their individual privilege delineation process. A categorical approach, a privilege list approach, or a combination categorical and privilege list approach may be used in the delineation of privileges process.

The Categorical Approach model provided in this document uses predefined criteria for two categories/levels of optometric practice. These professionally developed criteria specify the education, training, experience, and documented evidence of the practitioner's current competence to be applied as a basis in the evaluation and granting of clinical privileges to the optometric applicant. Privileges assigned to each category may vary according to each hospital's local needs and resources. *An applicant may apply for privileges not appearing on this list or are at a higher category based on or influenced by the practitioner's scope of practice.*

The Privilege List Approach model provided in this document is representative of possible optometric consultative, diagnostic, and treatment services that could be applied to optometrists in any state. **It should be understood that this is only a representative sample and should be customized to the particular situation.**

10/93

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**CATEGORICAL APPROACH
SAMPLE ONLY/NOT TO BE USED AS IS**

CATEGORY I Privileges in this category allow the optometric practitioner to independently examine, diagnose, treat, and manage common ocular conditions, diseases, and injuries, as specified by the State Board of Optometric Practice. Appropriate consultation will be sought when needed.

Criteria for requesting Category I privileges:

The applicant must demonstrate:

- Graduation from an accredited school or college of optometry, and
- Valid state license to practice optometry, and
- Appropriate certification by a state board of optometry when applicable, and
- Current evidence of competence and an adequate volume of clinical experience with acceptable results in the privileges requested for patients of all applicable age groups.

CATEGORY II In addition to Category I consultative services, privileges in this category allow the optometric practitioner to independently examine, diagnose, treat, and manage difficult or complex ocular disorders. Category II providers are expected to request consultation when appropriate

Criteria for requesting Category II privileges:

The applicant must demonstrate:

- Graduation from an accredited school or college of optometry, and
- Valid state license to practice optometry, and
- Appropriate certification by a state board of optometry when applicable, and
- Current evidence of appropriate knowledge, skill, and proficiency to treat eye disease and perform optometric specialty procedures and an adequate volume of current clinical experience with acceptable results in the privileges requested for patients of all applicable age groups.

Examples of Category II privileges may include but are not limited to:

Administration of medication by injection
Corneal epithelial debridement
Dilation and irrigation of lacrimal apparatus
Meibomian gland expression/massage
Minor surgical procedures of the eye and adnexa
Removal of nonperforating foreign bodies from cornea and conjunctiva
Urgent and emergent management of nonsurgical eye conditions

REVIEW AND DELINEATION OF CLINICAL PRIVILEGES

FOR: _____

In accordance with the Guidelines for Delineation of Clinical Privileges for Optometry and on the basis of my education, training, experience, and competence, I hereby request the specific privileges in the Department of _____ as identified on the preceding pages.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Department Chair

Date

Signature of Credentials Committee Chair

Date

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**PRIVILEGE LIST APPROACH
SAMPLE ONLY/NOT TO BE USED AS IS**

R	PROCEDURE	C	M	G	D	MODIFIED
()	Admitting privileges	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Burns	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Co-management of ocular conditions with other physicians	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Comprehensive eye health and vision examination	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Conjunctival/ocular irrigation	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Corneal epithelial debridement	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Corneal micropuncture for recurrent corneal erosion	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Developmental and perceptual vision evaluation and treatment	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Diagnosis and management of conditions of the visual system	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases and conditions of the eye, orbit, and adnexa (visual system)	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Dilation and irrigation of lacrimal apparatus	()	()	()	()	_____

Legend

R = Privilege Requested

C = Category (level of training or experience required for this privilege)

M = Monitoring required (monitoring by another optometrist or physician is required for a specific time before privilege is granted)

G = Privilege granted

D = Privilege denied

Modified = Designate if any limitations to the privilege are indicated

This list is representative of possible optometric consultative, diagnostic, and treatment services that could be applied to optometrists in any state. However, the list is not all inclusive and should not be used as a means of limiting or restricting an optometrist's scope of practice; nor is the list applicable in its entirety to all optometrists.

R	PROCEDURE	C	M	G	D	MODIFIED
()	Electrodiagnostic testing	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Fluorescein angiography	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Incision and drainage of abscess	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Incision and drainage of lacrimal gland or sac	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Laser (specify) _____	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Low vision evaluation and related services	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Medical laboratory tests: order and interpret	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Minor procedures of the eye and adnexa	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Ocular microbiology laboratory tests: order and interpret (specify) _____	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Ophthalmic ultrasonography: A and B scans	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Punctal occlusion	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Radiological imaging tests	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Repair of superficial ocular laceration	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Utilization of injectable ophthalmic therapeutic pharmaceutical agents	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Utilization of oral legend drugs	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Utilization of oral narcotic pharmaceutical agents	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Utilization of topical ophthalmic pharmaceutical agents (specify) _____	()	()	()	()	_____
()	Vision therapy/orthoptics related services (specify) _____	()	()	()	()	_____

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