

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

Adopt section 1571 of Division 15 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 1571. Requirements for Glaucoma Certification.

(a) Only optometrists meeting the requirements of this Article may apply for certification for the treatment of glaucoma as described in subdivision (j) of Section 3041, in patients over 18 years of age. The optometrist shall:

(1) Hold an active license as an optometrist in California in good standing with the State Board of Optometry (Board);

(2) Be certified to use Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents (TPA) pursuant to Section 3041.3;

(3) Complete a didactic course of no less than 24 hours in the diagnosis, pharmacological and other treatment and management of glaucoma. The following topics may be covered in the course:

- (A) Anatomy and physiology of glaucoma
- (B) Classification of glaucoma
- (C) Pharmacology in glaucoma therapy
- (D) Diagnosis of glaucoma including risk factors analysis
- (E) Medical and surgical treatment
- (F) Participant performance assessment; and

(4) Complete a Case Management Requirement where a minimum of 25 patients are prospectively treated in a consecutive 12-month period. The following options may be chosen in any combination to fulfill this requirement:

(A) **Case Management Course:** Completion of a 16-hour case management course developed by an accredited California school or college of optometry, with at least 15 cases of moderate to advanced complexity. The course may be conducted live, over the Internet, or by use of telemedicine. One hour of the program will be used for a final competency examination. The program will count as a 15-patient credit towards the Case Management Requirement. The full course must be completed to receive the 15-patient credit. The course must include the following topics/conditions:

- (1) Presentation of conditions/cases that licensees may treat:
 - (a) All primary open-angle glaucoma
 - (b) Exfoliation and pigmentary glaucoma
- (2) Presentation of conditions/cases that licensees may not treat, but must recognize and refer to the appropriate physician and/or surgeon such as:
 - (a) Pseudoglaucoma with vascular, malignant, or compressive etiologies.
 - (b) Secondary glaucoma.
 - (c) Traumatic glaucoma.
 - (d) Infective or inflammatory glaucoma.
 - (e) Appropriate evaluation and analysis for medical or surgical consultation.
 - (f) In an emergency, if possible, stabilization of acute attack of angle closure and immediate referral of the patient.

(B) **Grand Rounds Program:** Completion of a 16-hour grand rounds program developed by an accredited California school or college of optometry, wherein participants will evaluate and create a management plan for live patients. The program will count as a 15-patient credit towards the Case Management Requirement. The full program must be completed to receive the 15-patient credit. Patients must be evaluated in person. The program must include the following:

(1) Presentation of various patient types such as: glaucoma suspects, narrow angle, primary open angle glaucoma (early, moderate, late); and secondary open angle glaucoma such as pigment dispersion and pseudoexfoliation. Patient data, including but not limited to, visual acuities, intra-ocular pressures, visual fields, imaging, and pachymetry, will be available on-site and presented upon request.

(2) Examination of patients, evaluation of data and test results, and commitment to a tentative diagnosis, treatment, and management plan.

(3) Participation in group discussion of the cases with instructor feedback.

(4) Attendance of follow-up meetings (within the 16-hour program requirement) where the same or different patients will be used via serial data from visual fields, imaging photos, and etc.

(C) **Preceptorship Program:** Completion of a preceptorship program where each patient must be initially evaluated by the optometrist and co-managed with a preceptor. Each patient must be prospectively treated in a consecutive 12-month period. A preceptor for purposes of this section is defined as:

(1) A California licensed, Board certified ophthalmologist in good standing; or

(2) A California licensed optometrist in good standing, who has been glaucoma certified for two or more years.

Preceptors shall confirm the diagnosis and treatment plan, and then approve the therapeutic goals and management plan for each patient. Consultation with the preceptor must occur at appropriate clinical intervals or when the therapeutic goals are not achieved. Clinical data will be exchanged at appropriate intervals determined by the preceptor and the licensee. Telemedicine and electronic exchange of information may be used as agreed upon by the preceptor and the licensee. Each patient that is seen by the optometrist in the program will count as a 1-patient credit towards the Case Management Requirement.

(b) Licensees who completed their education from an accredited school or college of optometry on or after May 1, 2008, are exempt from the didactic course and case management requirements of this Section, provided they submit proof of graduation from that institution to the Board.

(c) Licensees who graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry prior to May 1, 2000, and who have not completed a didactic course of no less than 24 hours will be required to take the 24-hour course indicated in subsection (a). Licensees who graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry after May 1, 2000, are exempt from the didactic course requirement of this Section.

(d) Licensees who graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry prior to May 1, 2008, and who have taken a didactic course of no less than 24 hours, but not completed the case management requirement under SB 929 [Stats. 2000, ch. 676, § 3], will be required to complete the 25-patient case management requirement indicated in subsection (a).

(e) Licensees who started the process for certification to treat glaucoma under SB 929 [Stats. 2000, ch. 676, § 3] but will not complete the requirements by December 31, 2009, may apply all patients who have been co-managed prospectively for at least one consecutive year towards the 25-patient case management requirement.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 3025, 3041, 3041.10, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Section 3041.3, Business and Profession Code.