

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

Amend Section 1536 of Division 15 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 individual patients are each prospectively treated for a minimum of 12 consecutive months. For purposes of this section, "treat" means properly evaluating the patient, performing all necessary tests, diagnosing the patient, recognizing the type of glaucoma within a licensee's scope of practice, creating a treatment plan with proposed medications and target pressures, ongoing monitoring and reevaluation of the patient's condition, and making timely referrals to an ophthalmologist when appropriate. The following options may be chosen in any combination to fulfill this requirement:

(A) Case Management Course: Completion of a 16hour case management course developed cooperatively by the accredited California schools and colleges of optometry and approved by the Board, 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. Although the Case Management Course does not involve treatment of patients, completion of the 16-hour Case Management Course is equivalent

to prospectively treating 15 individual patients for 12 consecutive months. Therefore, completion of the 16hour Case Management Course will count as a 15patient 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 cooperatively by the accredited California schools and colleges of optometry and approved by the Board, wherein participants will evaluate and create a management plan for live patients. Completion of the 16-hour Grand Rounds Program is equivalent to prospectively treating 15 individual patients for 12 consecutive months. Therefore, the 16-hour Grand Rounds 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 16hour program requirement) where the same or different patients will be reviewed via serial data, including but not limited to visual fields and imaging photos.

(C) Preceptorship Program: Completion of a preceptorship program where each patient must be initially evaluated by the licensee and co-managed with a preceptor. Each patient must be prospectively treated for a minimum of 12 consecutive months. 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 1patient credit towards the Case Management Requirement.

~~(b) Licensees that are glaucoma certified pursuant to this Section shall be required to complete 10 hours of glaucoma specific optometric continuing education every license renewal period. These 10 hours shall be part of the required 35 hours on the diagnosis, treatment and management of ocular disease.~~

(eb) 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.

(ec) 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.

| (ed) 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 Case Management Requirement indicated in subsection (a).

| (fe) 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 12 consecutive months towards the Case Management Requirement indicated in subsection (a).

Authority cited: Sections 3025, 3041, 3041.10 and 3059, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Sections 3041 and 3041.3, Business and Professions Code.

History

1. New section filed 12-9-2010; operative 1-8-2011 (Register 2010, No. 50).