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To: Board Members

Date: November 4, 2016

From: Joanne Stacy
Policy Analyst

Telephone: (916) 575-7182

Subject: Agenda Item 15 Review, Consideration and Possible Action on Consumer Protection Committee Recommendations Regarding the Scope of Practice Educational Outreach

During the August 26, 2016 Board meeting minimum certification requirements for all optometrists to practice in California was discussed. Some concerns were expressed that optometrists might not be aware of changes in scope of practice since they were licensed. The Board directed the Consumer Protection Committee compose an education letter to be sent out to optometrists as a reminder of the scope of practice with each certification.

Consumer Protection Committee

The Consumer Protection Committee met on September 28 and October 13 to discuss the educational letter (Attachment 1) that was drafted by staff. The letter would be sent out to all optometrist practicing in California as a scope of practice reminder. Also, the committee directed staff to add Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Practicing with Various Levels of Optometric Certification to the Board's website to supplement the letter. The staff will be modeling its frequently asked questions off of the [Medical Board's Frequently Asked Questions - Medical Assistants](#).

Action Requested:

The Consumer Protection Workgroup requests the Board consider and approve the educational letter and ask staff to distribute to the Board's licensees. In addition, please delegate authority to the committee chair to work with staff and legal counsel to make any non-substantive changes needed.

Attachment:

1. Educational outreach letter



STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
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Date

Name
Address
City, CA Zip

Dear Dr. Name:

The California State Board of Optometry strives to educate licensees on the current laws, regulations and scope of practice for California optometrists. During a recent meeting, the Board discussed the evolution of healthcare and the practice of optometry. The initial scope of practice, several decades ago, did not include any certifications; now, the scope has evolved to include services such as dilation, performing lacrimal irrigation, and diagnosing and treating glaucoma. An increased scope of practice allows optometrists to offer more services to California patients in need.

With the ever changing landscape in the optometry profession, the Board wanted to offer clarifications regarding what certifications are available, what scope of practice each certification entails and encourage those interested in providing additional optometric services to California patients to contact the Board.

Certification Scope of Practice*						
	No Certification	DPA	TPA	TPL	TPG	TLG
Conduct exams for the overall health of the eyes and screen for disease	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prescribing any optical device in connection with ocular exercises, visual training, vision training, or orthoptics	X	X	X	X	X	X
Perform dilation		X	X	X	X	X
Prescribe/dispense lubricating eye drops			X	X	X	X
Prescribe/recommend over the counter allergy medications (ex. Claritin) or over the counter allergy eye drops			X	X	X	X
Prescribe/recommend lid scrub			X	X	X	X
Prescribe/recommend nutritional supplements			X	X	X	X
Perform testing to evaluate/rule out potential tear film problems			X	X	X	X
Perform Lacrimal Irrigation				X		X
Diagnose and treat glaucoma					X	X

*This chart includes examples and should not be considered a complete list of scope of practice

The certification designations and their meanings are listed below. For further details about the certification please reference Business and Professions Code § 3041 (a)(1-5) and California Code of Regulations § 1561.

<u>No Designation</u>	No designation indicates the optometrist is licensed to conduct exams for the overall health of the eyes and screen for disease, but not certified to use diagnostic pharmaceutical agents and not certified to treat diseases of the eye or its appendages.
<u>DPA</u>	Certified to use diagnostic pharmaceutical agents for examination purposes only. Not certified to treat diseases of the eye or its appendages.
<u>TPA</u>	Certified to use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents to treat certain conditions of the human eye or any of its appendages. May also perform certain procedures on the eye as listed in California Business and Professions Code Section 3041.
<u>TPL</u>	TPA certified with additional certification to perform lacrimal irrigation and dilation procedures for patients over the age of 12 years.
<u>TPG</u>	TPA certified with additional certification to diagnose and treat primary open angle glaucoma in patients over the age of 18 years.
<u>TLG</u>	TPA certified with additional certification to diagnose and treat primary open angle glaucoma in patients over the age of 18 years as well as certification to perform lacrimal irrigation and dilation procedures for patients over the age of 12 years.

More information can be found at <http://www.optometry.ca.gov/>. In addition, a Frequently Asked Questions section will be added to the Board's Web site soon! Make sure to subscribe to the Board's email server by going to <https://www.dca.ca.gov/webapps/optometry/subscribe.php> in order to stay up to date on Board activities and information impacting the optometry profession.

If you have any questions please contact the Board at (916)575-7170 or email optometry@dca.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. Madhu Chawla, OD
Board President
California State Board of Optometry