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Owner:	<i>Nina Chenault: MGR PATIENT CARE-SRS</i>
Policy Area:	<i>Nursing</i>
References:	<i>Policy, SRS, Scope of Practice</i>
Applicability:	<i>Rees - Sharp</i>

Scope of Practice: Ophthalmic Technician, 30156

I. PURPOSE:

The Purpose of this document is to clarify tasks and responsibilities an Ophthalmic Technicians can legally perform within their Scope of Practice and within Department guidelines.

II. DEFINITIONS:

A. COA

1. Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) -Certified by IJCAHPO.
2. The process for certification is designed to allow an individual to achieve the first level of certification through the use of an independent study course under the supervision of a sponsoring ophthalmologist.

B. COT

Certified Ophthalmic Technician – Certified by IJCAHPO.

C. OPTOMETRY- Vision Care Specialty

Deals with function and disorders of the eye. Includes detection of disease and some types of management.

D. OPTOMETRIST- Vision Care Specialist (OD)

An independent practitioner that is trained in the prescription of eyeglasses and contact lenses as well as in the detection of eye disease.

E. OPHTHALMOLOGIST- Medical Specialist (MD)

A medical doctor specializing in the prevention, diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment of vision problems and eye diseases.

F. OPHTHALMOLOGY- Medical Specialty

Is the medical and surgical specialty that is concerned with the eye and surrounding structures, their proper function, eye disorders, and all aspects of vision.

G. OPTICIAN

An independent professional who is trained and/or licensed to fill and dispense eyeglasses and contact lenses according to the prescriptions written by the optometrist.

H. EHR – Electronic Health Record

III. TEXT:

A. Scope of Practice:

1. The Ophthalmic Technician is responsible for knowing their legal scope of practice as defined by California Business and Professions Codes # 2540, 2541, 2544, American Academy of Ophthalmology and as delineated in this policy.
2. The Ophthalmic Technician is responsible for maintaining clinical competence with regards to skills and activities within their Scope of Practice California Business and Professions Codes # 2540, 2541, 2544.
3. The Ophthalmic Technician should not perform an activity when the Ophthalmic Technician questions the legal scope of practice for that activity. Questions should be directed to the Optometrist, Ophthalmologist, Ophthalmic Technician's supervisor and/or lead for clarification.

B. Ophthalmic Technician allowed Functions (or duties) include:

1. Data collection:
 - a. Obtain authorization orders
 - b. Communicate with patients to obtain their medical history
 - c. Document patient history in EHR or paper records
 - d. Measure Visual Acuity (distance and near)
 - e. Ishihara AOHR color vision testing and Farnsworth – Munsell's D-15 Test (15-hue Test), HRR Color vision test.
 - f. Stereo Binocular Test
 - g. Measurement of contact lens base curves with Radioscope,
 - h. Obtain Blood Pressure and pulse reading as ordered
2. Two (2) patient identifier verifications before medications and procedures.
3. Prepare patient for eye examination.
4. Listens to patients, collect pertinent information, and reports findings to Ophthalmologist or Optometrist
5. Perform eye irrigation as per provider order and according to Scope of Practice.
6. Administer approved eye medications safely and accurately as per SRS guidelines and Optometrist's or Ophthalmologist's written orders. Approved eye medications include:
 - a. Cycloplegics
 - b. Mydriatics
 - c. Topiplanocal anesthetics that are not controlled substances
 - d. Topical ophthalmic antibiotics
 - e. Glaucoma medications
 - f. Steroid eye drops
7. Ensure verification by licensed person and documentation of all medications administered.
8. Perform tests and procedures in assigned department. May include:

- a. Simple non invasive testing of visual acuity, pupils and ocular motility
 - b. Automated visual field testing
 - c. Ophthalmic photography and digital imaging without Fluorescein
 - d. Lensometry – manual and auto
 - e. Non-subjective auto refraction in connection with subjective refraction procedures performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist
 - f. Pachymetry and keratometry testing
 - g. Assist Ophthalmologist with minor surgeries, to include: Chalazion excision and skin tag removal
 - h. Optical Coherence Tomography
 - i. Slit lamp examinations
 - j. Confrontational visual fields
 - k. Checking for afferent pupillary defects
 - l. Tonometry
9. In partnership with optometrist and ophthalmologist, provide educational material.
 10. Utilize universal precautions and demonstrate knowledge of infection control policies and procedures.
 11. Participate in clinical projects as directed by the optometrist, ophthalmologist, supervisor, lead or manager, to the level within their of the Scope of Practice.
 12. Knowledge of the correct care and maintenance of the following equipment:
 - a. Ophthalmic photography and digital imaging
 - b. Tonometer
 - c. Lensometer
 - d. Phoropter
 - e. Pachymeter
 - f. Keratometer
 - g. Autoclave
 - h. Visual field analyzer
 - i. Slit lamp
 - j. Brightness Acuity Test meter
 - k. Potential Acuity Meter
 13. Activate emergency procedure per protocol
 14. Remove Skin sutures
 15. Documentation in EHR

C. Functions which are NOT allowed include:

1. May not phone into Pharmacy new prescriptions or changed prescriptions. Medication Administration

Policy and Procedure # 43204.99

2. Ophthalmic technicians at Sharp Rees-Stealy may administer topical diagnostic eye drops for patients presenting to the eye clinic for ophthalmic examination. These drops include:
 - a. Phenylephrine 2.5%
 - b. Tropicamide 0.5% and 1.0%
 - c. Proparacaine 0.5%
 - d. Fluorescein/Benoxinate 0.25%
 - e. Artificial tear lubricant drops (preservative free)
 - i. Prior to instilling eye drops the Ophthalmic Technician will review patient allergies and previous adverse reactions before instilling drops.
 - ii. Generally, the provider is present in the clinic when these drops are administered. On occasion, the technician may administer the drops prior to the arrival of the provider (ie: while the provider is en route).
3. May not perform patient education other than reading written materials already discussed previously by the optometrist/ophthalmologist.
4. "No other person other than a physician, surgeon or optometrist may measure the powers or range of human vision to determine the accommodative and refractive status of the human eye or the scope of its functions in general, **or prescribe ophthalmic devices.**" CA Business code 2540

A **prescription ophthalmic device** includes each of the following:

- a. any spectacle or contact lens ordered by a physician, surgeon or optometrist, that alters or changes the visual powers of the human eye
- b. any contact lens described in paragraph 1 of subdivision (n) of Section 520 of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 USC Sec 360j)
- c. any Plano contact lens that is marketed or offered for sale in this state

D. Ophthalmic Technician II ONLY may perform all tasks allowed within the Ophthalmic Technician I Scope of Practice as well as, by the demonstration of thorough knowledge and competent application, performing the following procedures and skills:

1. Intraocular Lens Master (IOL Master)
2. Ocular photography, including Fluorescein Angiography
3. Operating Room assistance
4. A Scan

IV. REFERENCES:

1. Stein, H. A., Slatt, B. J., Stein, R. M., (1994), *Ophthalmic Medical Assisting, An Independent Study Course*, 3rd Ed., International Standard Book
2. Stein, H.A., Slatt, B.J., Stein, R.M., (1994), *Ophthalmic Medical Assistant, a guide for Ophthalmic Medical Personnel*, 6th Ed., International Standard Book
3. CA Business Codes # 2540, 2541, 2544

4. Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, paragraph 1, subdivision (n), Section 520 (21 USC Sec 360j)

V. ORIGINATOR:

SRS Nursing Policy and Procedure Committee

VI. LEGAL REFERENCES:

- A. Medical Board of California
- B. Sharp Rees-Stealy
- C. International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO)

VII. CROSS REFERENCES:

- A. SRS Job description for Ophthalmic Technicians I + II

VIII. APPROVALS:

A. Ongoing

- A. SRS Chief, Division of Ophthalmology: 03/18, 01/21
- B. SRS Patient Care Managers: 10/15, 03/18, 01/21
- C. SRS Director of Surgical Specialties: 01/21
- D. SRS Policy & Procedure Committee: 01/21

B. Historic

- A. System Policy & Procedure Steering Committee: 02/17
- B. SRS Director of Nursing: 08/16, 05/17, 03/18

IX. REPLACES:

None

X. HISTORY:

System #30156; originally dtd 02/17
Reviewed/Revised: 05/17; 03/18; 04/18

A. Attachments

Attachments

[Chief, Division of Ophthalmology Memo 03.10.18](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Site Administrator	Karen Whitten: POLICY & PROCEDURE COORD	1/28/2021
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Editor	Elisa Romero: DIR AMBULATORY CARE SVCS-SRS	1/25/2021
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Applicability

Sharp HealthCare, Sharp Rees Stealy

COPY