



The Nebraska Board of Optometry

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Board of Optometry Credentialing Review Application for Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)

The Board of Optometry supports the proposal to enhance the scope of practice of optometry in Nebraska and urges the Technical Review Committee, The Board of Health, and the Chief Medical Officer of the State of Nebraska to support the Credentialing Review Application for Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) for the following reasons:

1. The proposed change in scope is well within the education, training, and experience of a therapeutically certified optometrist in Nebraska.
2. Optometrists in Nebraska are well trained to treat glaucoma and have been since 1998.
3. Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) is a well-established, effective, and safe procedure for the treatment of glaucoma with few complications. Those complications have been managed and treated by Nebraska optometrists since laser trabeculoplasties of any type were first performed in the early 1990s.
4. The education and certification process outlined in the proposal have been demonstrated in other states as an appropriate curriculum and process to safely implement SLT into the scope of practice of optometrists.
5. Licensing boards in other states where optometrists have the authority to perform SLT have validated that there are no concerns or problems regarding public safety.
6. Therefore, having certified optometrists perform SLT does not pose any significant increased safety risk to the citizens of Nebraska.
7. Enhancement of the scope of practice of optometry in Nebraska to include SLT will capitalize on the training and skills already possessed by optometrists to increase access to SLT and reduce the current duplication of care for optometric patients in Nebraska needing SLT.
8. The schools and colleges of optometry are already teaching this procedure to their students and the National Board of Examiners in Optometry has testing protocols established to test graduating optometrists' competence in performing SLT.
9. Increasing the scope of practice to include SLT will help keep Nebraska competitive in attracting the "best and brightest" optometrists to our state.