

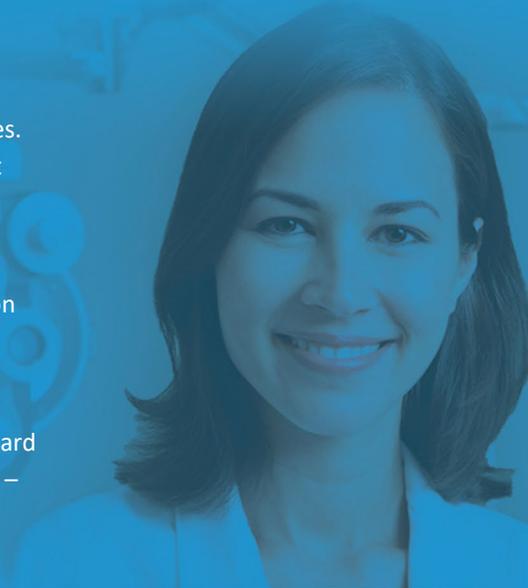


Scope Expansion: Limited Laser and Superficial Skin Procedures

Optometrists are Albertans’ greatest defense against vision loss, especially in rural communities. The Alberta College of Optometrists (ACO) ensures Doctors of Optometry can offer the highest levels of safe and competent eye care to all Albertans.

Advances in the education and training of Alberta optometrists have outpaced the current regulated scope of the profession. That’s why the ACO is requesting an update to our legislation that will authorize Doctors of Optometry to perform limited laser (e.g. to treat glaucoma) and superficial skin procedures (e.g. removal of skin tags).

The proposals in this submission represent a sustainable and cost-effective way to limit and guard against vision impairment and loss, and to improve the delivery of health services to Albertans – particularly in rural areas.



1

Studies conducted in other North American jurisdictions found an overall health system cost savings after Doctors of Optometry were authorized to provide these exact, same limited laser and superficial skin procedures.

2

The Alberta College of Optometrists will mandate that all practitioners who will provide these services must complete a rigorous certification course including a Final Exam – just as we did for all previous optometric scope expansions. This is in our patients’ best interest and our obligation as a College to the protect the public.

3

During their 4-year doctoral-level university education (following a BSc program), Doctors of Optometry gain the knowledge, skills and competencies to provide these requested procedures in a safe and proficient manner.

4

Doctors of Optometry work in more than 100 communities across Alberta. Our members ensure Albertans receive high quality and accessible vision care services in their local community. This is especially important for rural and indigenous populations.

5

Doctors of Optometry are highly trained and skilled. Optometrists have been providing these exact, same limited laser and superficial skin procedures in other North American jurisdictions for over 40 years in a safe and skilled manner. In each and every jurisdiction, this authorization has never been repealed or scaled back due to concerns over the quality of care provided by optometrists.



The Alberta College of Optometrists is extremely pleased to celebrate 100 years of protecting the public interest while providing highly skilled and competent vision care services to Albertans.

For more information please visit:
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