

(e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a therapeutically certified optometrist may not perform any procedure on the eyelid of a patient.

(2) A therapeutically certified optometrist may epilate with forceps an eyelash from the eyelid, adnexa, or lacrimal system of a patient.

(f) ~~(1)~~ A therapeutically certified optometrist may remove superficial foreign bodies from the human eye only if:

~~(1)~~ The foreign body may be removed with a cotton-tipped applicator or blunt spatula; and

~~(2)~~ The foreign body has not penetrated beyond the Bowman's membrane of the cornea and is not within 2.5 millimeters of the visual axis.

~~(2) A THERAPEUTICALLY CERTIFIED OPTOMETRIST MAY REMOVE RESIDUAL PARTICULATE MATTER FROM THE HUMAN EYE IF THE RESIDUAL PARTICULATE MATTER MAY BE REMOVED WITH AN ALGER BRUSH.~~

(g) (1) ~~Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a~~ A therapeutically certified optometrist may ~~not~~ order laboratory tests for a patient ~~THAT ARE NECESSARY TO ADHERE TO THE STANDARDS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF TOPICAL PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS PRESCRIBED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.~~

(2) A therapeutically certified optometrist may order a conjunctival culture.

(h) A therapeutically certified optometrist may not provide any therapeutic treatment listed in this section for a child under the age of 1 year.

(i) Unless the standard of care requires an earlier referral, if a therapeutically certified optometrist diagnoses a corneal ulcer or infiltrate, and the patient does not have the expected response within 48 hours, the optometrist immediately shall refer the patient to an ophthalmologist.

(j) A therapeutically certified optometrist shall be held to the same standard of care as an ophthalmologist who is licensed under Title 14 of this article and who is providing similar services.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before October 1, 2005, the State Board of Examiners in Optometry shall approve at least one ~~continuing education~~ course for a therapeutically certified optometrist administered by the Maryland Optometric Association in conjunction with the Maryland Eye Surgeons and Physicians ~~on the removal of superficial foreign bodies from the human eye, adnexa, or lacrimal system~~ that satisfies the requirements of § 11-404.1(b)(1)(iv) of the Health Occupations Article as enacted by this Act and qualifies as a continuing education course.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Board of Examiners in Optometry shall grant a waiver of the certification requirements of §