

(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.

(G) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A THERAPEUTICALLY CERTIFIED OPTOMETRIST MAY NOT ORDER LABORATORY TESTS FOR A PATIENT.

(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.

11-404.3.

(A) THE MARYLAND OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION AND THE MARYLAND SOCIETY OF EYE PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE SECRETARY QUALITY ASSURANCE GUIDELINES FOR THERAPEUTICALLY CERTIFIED OPTOMETRISTS AND OPTOMETRIC CARE.

(B) (1) AFTER CONSIDERING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MARYLAND OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION AND THE MARYLAND SOCIETY OF EYE PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ESTABLISH:

(I) STANDARDS OF QUALITY FOR THERAPEUTICALLY CERTIFIED OPTOMETRISTS AND OPTOMETRIC CARE;

(II) AN ONGOING QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES THE MONITORING AND STUDY OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT OF PRIMARY OPEN-ANGLE GLAUCOMA PATIENTS UNDER § 11-404.2(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(III) A PROGRAM TO EVALUATE THE COST OF OPTOMETRIC CARE;  
AND

(IV) A PLAN TO MONITOR COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION.

(2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL REQUIRE THE BOARD TO:

(I) CONDUCT A CONTINUING STUDY AND INVESTIGATION OF THERAPEUTICALLY CERTIFIED OPTOMETRISTS TO ENSURE THE QUALITY OF CARE THEY PROVIDE; AND