

**PERFORMANCE OF THERAPEUTIC LASER EYE PROCEDURES IN VETERANS
HEALTH ADMINISTRATION FACILITIES**

- 1. REASON FOR ISSUE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive specifies that only ophthalmologists will be privileged to perform therapeutic laser eye procedures at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities.
- 2. SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES:** This revised Directive includes an expanded description of the requisite training and expertise for ophthalmologists.
- 3. RELATED ISSUES:** VHA Handbook 1121.01.
- 4. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** The Office of Specialty Care Services (10P4E) is responsible for the content of this Directive. Questions may be referred to 202-461-7120.
- 5. RESCISSION:** VHA Directive 2009-056, dated November 2, 2009, is rescinded.
- 6. RECERTIFICATION:** This VHA Directive is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of May 2020.

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- 1. PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive specifies that only ophthalmologists will be privileged to perform therapeutic laser procedures of the eye and eyelids at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. **AUTHORITY:** 38 U.S.C. 7301(b).
- 2. POLICY:** It is VHA policy that therapeutic laser eye procedures may be performed only by ophthalmologists who have completed an accredited ophthalmology residency approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association, or are certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology or the American Osteopathic Board of Ophthalmology, and have appropriate training and experience in therapeutic laser procedures in accordance with the credentialing and privileging procedures at the VA medical facility.
- 3. RESPONSIBILITY:** Each VA medical facility Director is responsible for ensuring that privileges to perform laser eye procedures may only be granted to ophthalmologists who have completed the requirements as described in this Directive.
- 4. REFERENCE:** VHA Handbook 1121.01, VHA Eye Care.