

SCOPE EXPANSION EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2020

[\(Click here for the full text of the statutory language\)](#)

The new authorities below become effective as early as March 1, 2020 for TPA certified optometrists who:

1. Have taken the required 10-hour Board approved mandatory courses offered by either the Maryland Optometric Association (MOA) or the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute AND
2. Whose attendance has been submitted by the sponsor directly to the Board

As long as TPA certified optometrists meet the 10-hour course requirement and the Board has received documentation of participation no later than June 30, 2020, licensees will maintain their therapeutic certification and be able to practice at the new expanded scope.

- Independent Management of Open Angle Glaucoma Patients
- Corneal & Conjunctival Foreign Body Removal (with any tool other than a scalpel)
 - Central Axis - foreign body may not perforate Bowman's and is within 2.5 mm of visual axis of cornea.
 - Other foreign body peripheral and anterior to the Mid Stroma
- Limited Ordering/Performing Tests
 - Bloodwork with physician consultation and results reported back to consulting M.D.
 - Only non-genetic blood test
 - Conjunctival or corneal culture
 - Image testing (non-invasive, non-radiographic in-office)
- Rx of ALL Topical Agents (except topical anti-metabolites)
- Rx of ALL Oral Pharmaceutical Agents with the following exceptions:
 - Controlled dangerous substances
 - Anti-fungal agents
 - Immuno-modulatory agents
 - Anti-metabolites
 - Immuno-suppressive agents (but up to 1 month dose of oral corticosteroids w/physician consultation allowed)
 - ANY Oral Medications to children under 18 years of age (but, oral antibiotics to a minor at least 16 and under 18 w/physician consultation allowed)

Licensure Changes & Requirements:

- Quality Assurance Program (QEI) discontinued effective March 1, 2020
- Failure to take the course will result in a license status change to DPA effective July 1, 2020