

November 2, 2009

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

- 1. PURPOSE:** 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. BACKGROUND:** VHA Directive 2004-045 provided that optometrists with appropriate training and licensure could be given authority to perform therapeutic laser eye procedures under the supervision of an ophthalmologist. VHA Directive 2004-070 changed that policy to the effect that only ophthalmologists with the requisite training and expertise may perform therapeutic laser eye procedures.
- 3. POLICY:** It is VHA policy that therapeutic laser eye procedures may be performed only by ophthalmologists with the requisite training and expertise.
- 4. ACTION:** Each facility Director is responsible for ensuring that privileges to perform laser eye procedures are granted to ophthalmologists with the requisite training and expertise.
- 5. REFERENCE:** VHA Handbook 1121.01, VHA Eye Care.
- 6. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:** The Office of Patient Care Services (11), Medical-Surgical Services (111) is responsible for the contents of this Directive. Questions may be referred to (206) 764-2320.
- 7. RESCISSIONS:** VHA Directive 2004-070 is rescinded. This VHA Directive expires November 30, 2014.

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**THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES NOVEMBER 30, 2014**