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BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN OPTOMETRY POLICY
ON THE USE OF IPL DEVICES BY OPTOMETRISTS

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Optometry voted on August 21, 2019, to adopt the following policy guidelines on the use of IPL devices by licensed optometrists.

The Board of Registration in Optometry hereby recognizes that a licensed, TPA-certified optometrist, with appropriate skill, education and training, may utilize Intense Pulsed Light (“IPL”) devices to treat dry eye disease and ocular surface disease, provided said use complies with the requirements of this policy and any other applicable regulation or law.

An Optometrist who provides IPL services must have proof of the optometrist’s completion of appropriate training available on-site for Board inspection and upon request. Appropriate training could be a training program by manufacturer, approved continuing education course, or IPL training in optometric college. An optometrist may use an IPL Devices only in a non-ablative and non-invasive manner and for a documented optometric purpose within the scope of the practice of “optometry” as set forth in G.L. c. 112, s. 66. An optometrist utilizing IPL shall be prepared to handle any complications from the treatment. An optometrist may not delegate the use of the IPL to any other person.

Optometrist must ensure the IPL machine they utilize meets all applicable state and federal requirements. The optometrist must retain a copy of the manufacturer’s instructions for the IPL device on-site for Board inspection and upon request. An optometrist shall not use any device, setting or apparatus on any device for any purpose which is outside the scope of optometric practice in Massachusetts. An optometrist may not provide IPL treatment to a patient solely for aesthetic benefit or after the optometric purpose for the treatment has been achieved.

