

RECENT CHANGES IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE  
OPTOMETRY LAW MAY HAVE BROADENED THE SCOPE  
OF PRACTICE OF YOUR DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

All health professions are evolving as technology, training and new understanding becomes available. Most professions are state licensed and optometry is no exception. Prior to 1994 optometry was responsible for diagnosing eye disease but in 1994 legislation was passed that allowed New Hampshire optometrists to treat diseases of the eye and eye lids with topical and/or oral medications. Then in 2002 the law was expanded to include the treatment of open angle glaucoma. In these expansions were a required intensive glaucoma course for the established optometrist and required continuing education annually for the re-licensure for every glaucoma certified optometrist.

Optometrists in New Hampshire who have attained the necessary certification may do the following:

1. Diagnose and prescribe treatment for a variety of muscular abnormalities of the visual system.
2. Prescribe glasses, contact lenses, prisms, ocular exercises or low vision aides.
3. Diagnose and prescribe medications for the treatment of most eye diseases that affect the anterior segment of the eye or eyelids.
4. Remove foreign objects that are superficially embedded in the eye or eyelids.
5. Treat open angle glaucoma.

To determine if your optometrist is therapeutically certified (TPA) or has glaucoma privileges (TPA/g), you may ask to see his or her annual license renewal card. Or you may contact the State Board of Registration in Optometry in Concord at (603) 271-2428.