

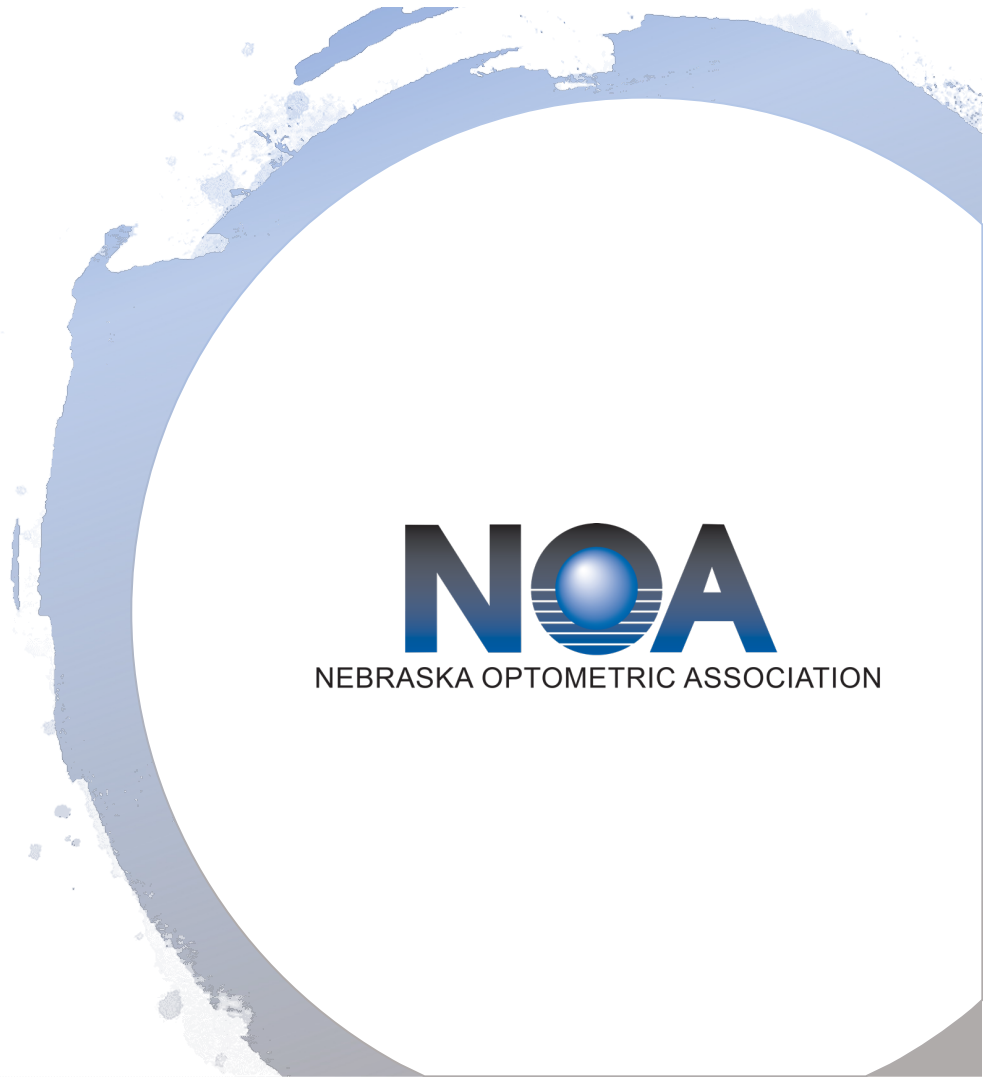
Introduction of 407 TRC Application

Christopher Wolfe, OD, FAAO, Dipl. ABO



Doctor of Optometry Current Scope of Practice in Nebraska

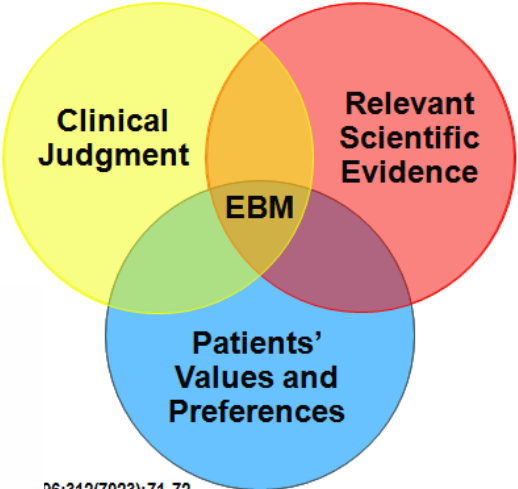
Christopher Wolfe, OD, FAAO, Dipl. ABO



Current Scope of Practice in Nebraska

- Licensed Optometrists in Nebraska are responsible for **diagnosing disorders or abnormal health conditions that affect the eyes and adjacent structures, vision, or human visual system.**
- Evaluate vision and correct vision disorders and deficiencies by **prescribing and fitting eyeglasses and contact lenses and providing vision therapy.**
- The present scope of practice enables them to treat these disorders or conditions with **any topical or oral medication as well as a range of medical procedures.**
- Because the **eye and visual system is directly integrated into the other systems of the human body**, optometrists understand and monitor overall patient health concerns that can impact, or be impacted by, eye disease or vision disorders.

What Is Evidence-Based Medicine?



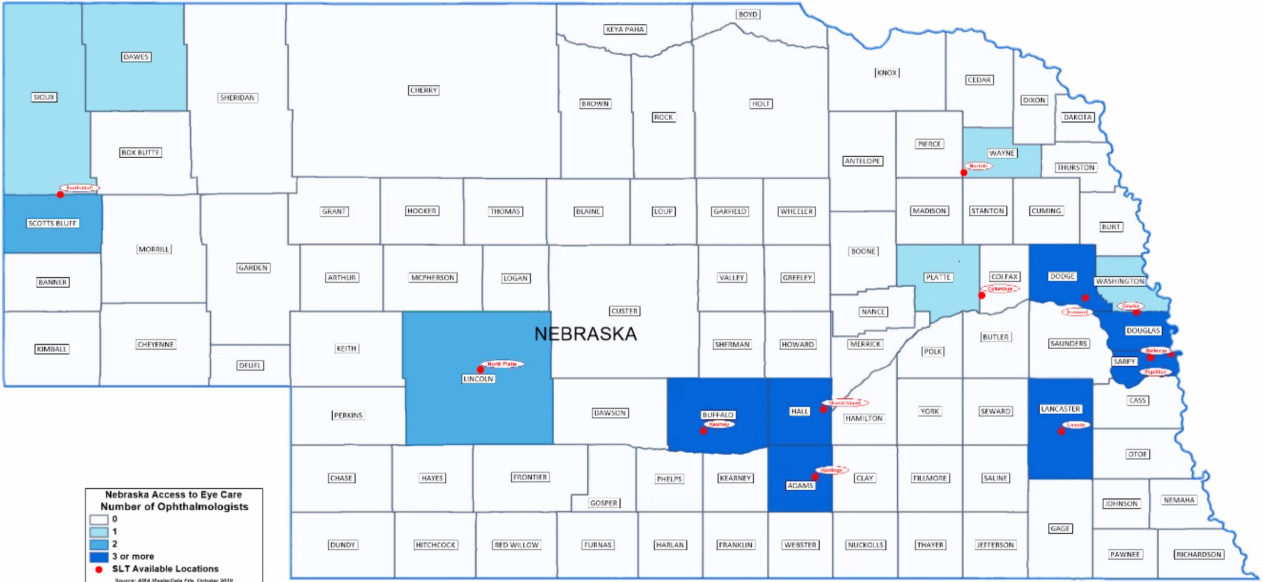
96;312(7023):71-72.

Evolving standard of care.



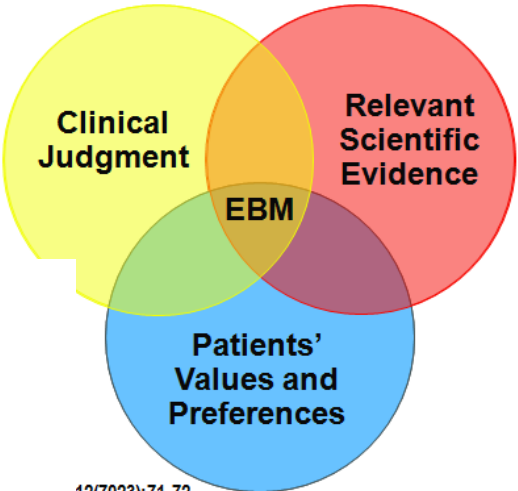
NEBRASKA OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

WHY are we requesting changes?



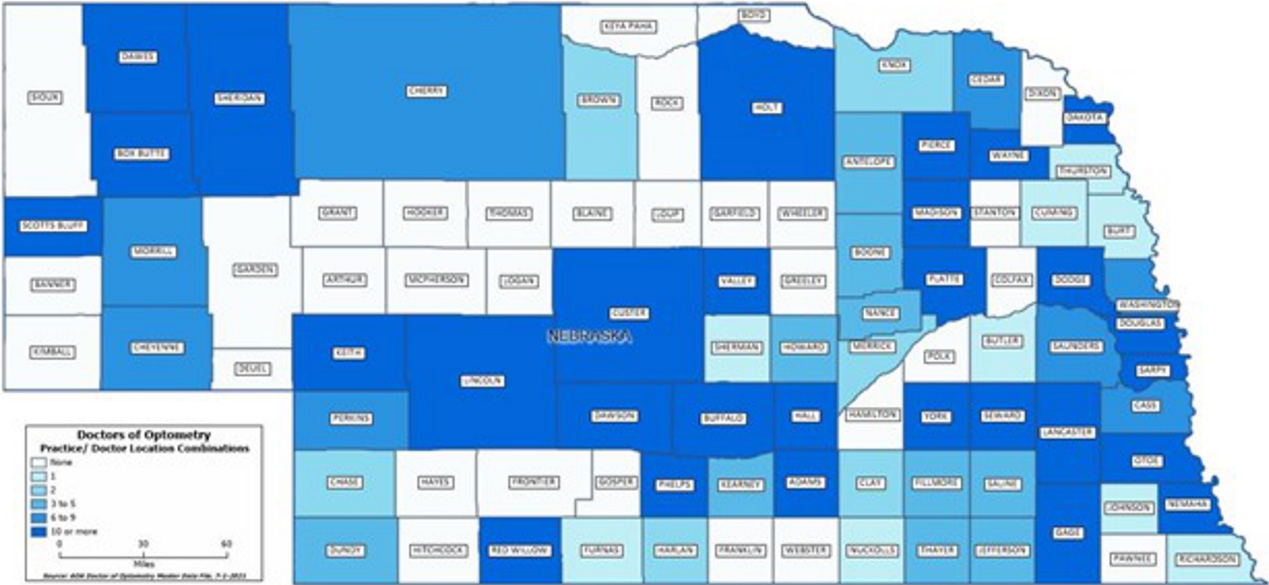
Criteria #1

What Is Evidence-Based Medicine?



12(7023):71-72.

WHY are we requesting changes?



Criteria #1

What does a day look like in a primary care OD practice? – March 7th 2022

8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM							
8:00 AM IPL 3 + L Wolfe, C	8:30 AM Exam w/ Wolfe, C	9:00 AM Ocular S Wolfe, C	9:30 AM 403- Sof Wolfe, C	10:00 AM 4 Comp Wolfe, C	10:30 AM 403- Sof Wolfe, C	11:00 AM 4 Comp Wolfe, C	11:30 AM 4 Comp Wolfe, C	12:00 PM Ocular S Wolfe, C	12:30 PM Wolfe, Chris Busy time Lunch	1:45 PM Appointm Wolfe, C	2:15 PM 8 Office Wolfe, C	2:45 PM Ocular S Wolfe, C	3:15 PM 4 Comp Wolfe, C	3:45 PM 4 Comp Wolfe, C	4:15 PM IPL Wolfe, C
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What does a day look like in a primary care OD practice? – March 7th 2022

- **Performed 4 intense pulsed light procedures**
- Performed 1 Punctal occlusion Procedure
- Performed 1 corneal debridement with amniotic membrane graft insertion
- Managed 5 patients with chronic ocular surface disease
- Prescribed oral/topical medications for 9 patients
- Managed 1 patient with macular degeneration
- Managed 1 patient with foreign body
- Managed 3 patients with glaucoma



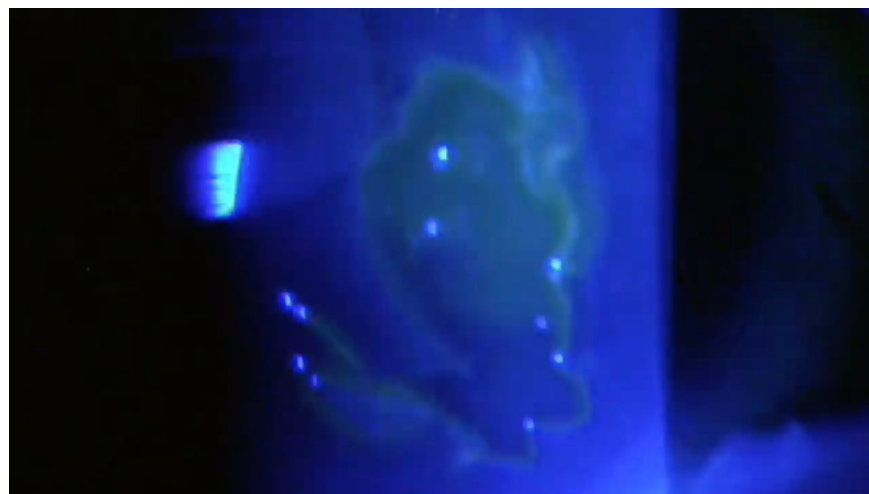
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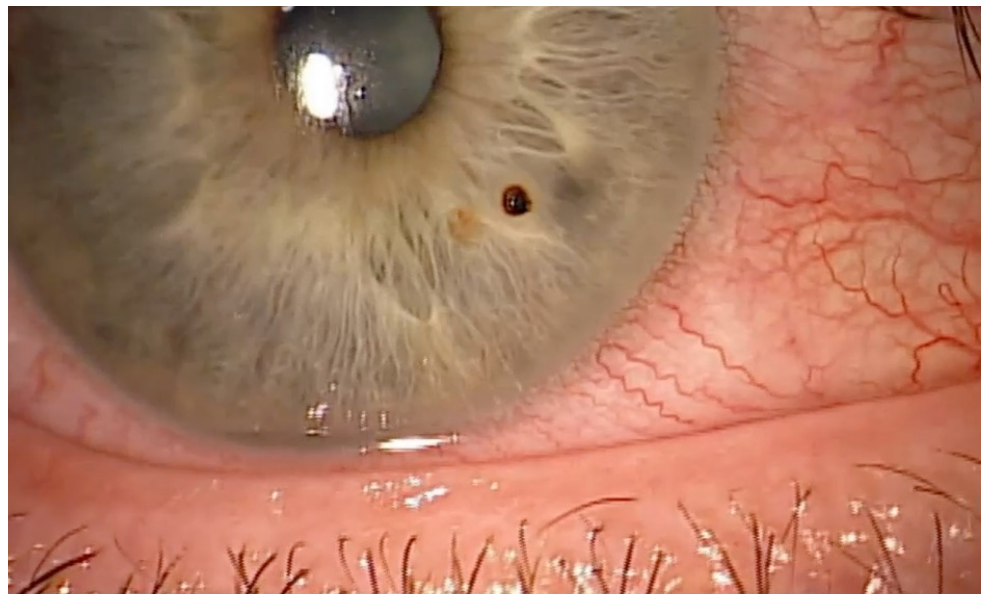
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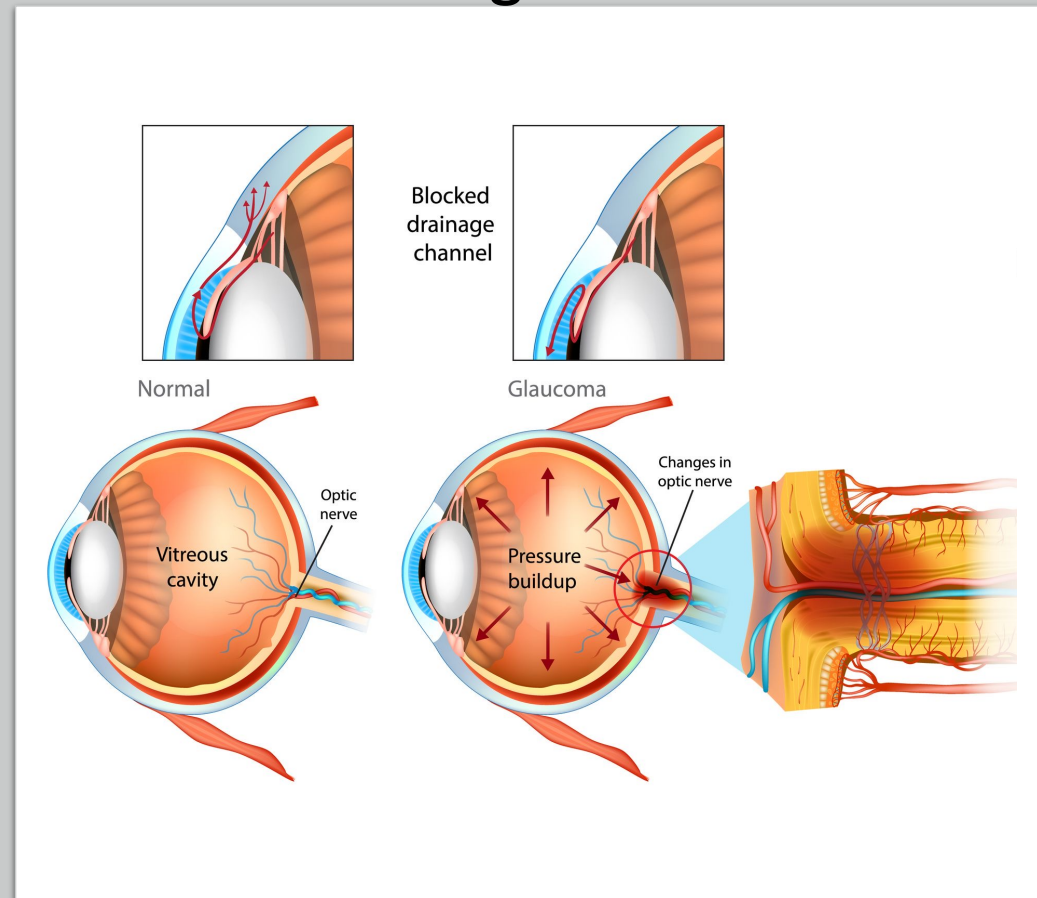
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What is glaucoma?

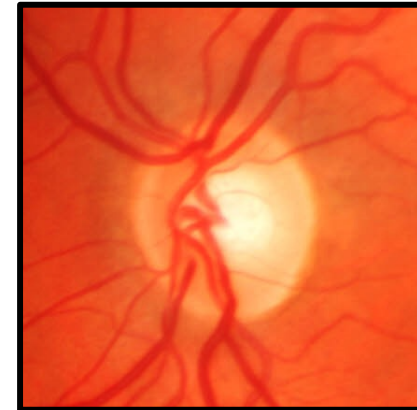
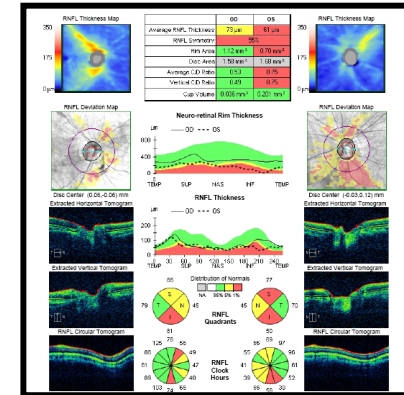
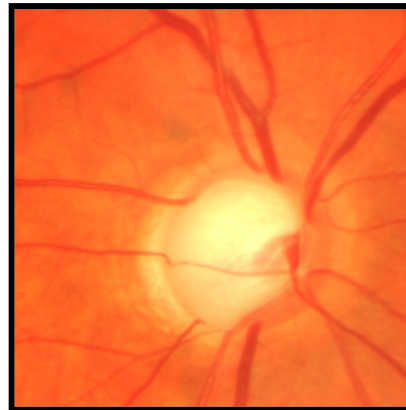
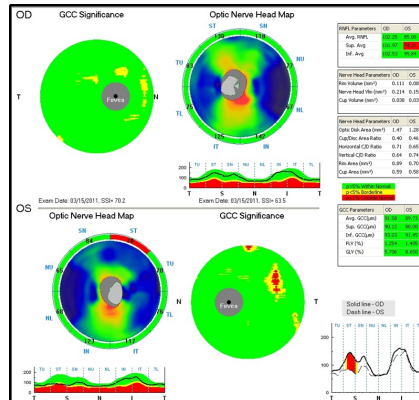


How do
optometrists
evaluate the
glaucoma
patient?



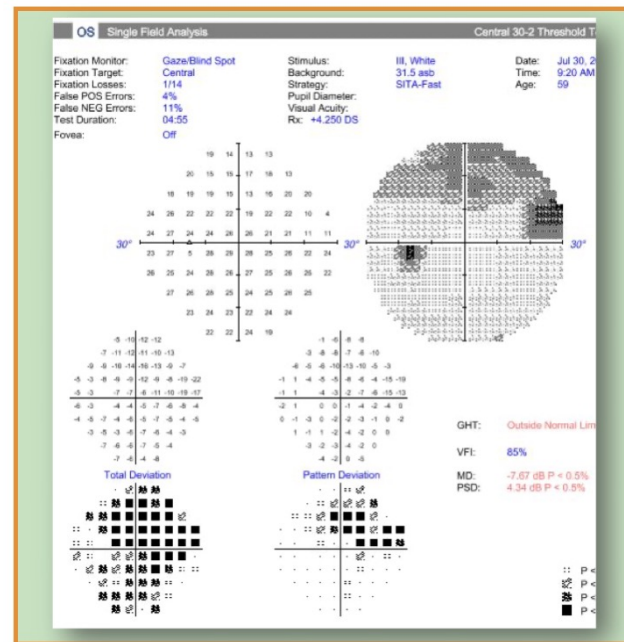
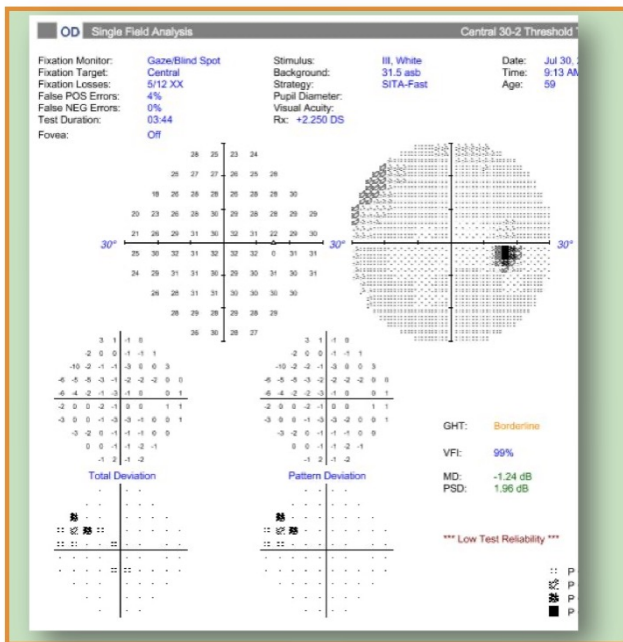
Criteria #4

How do optometrists evaluate the glaucoma patient?



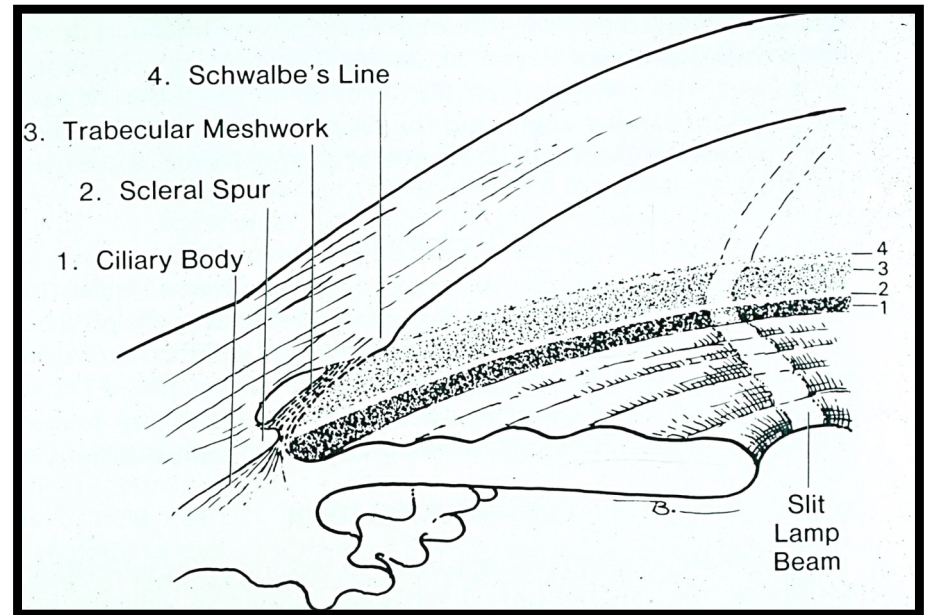
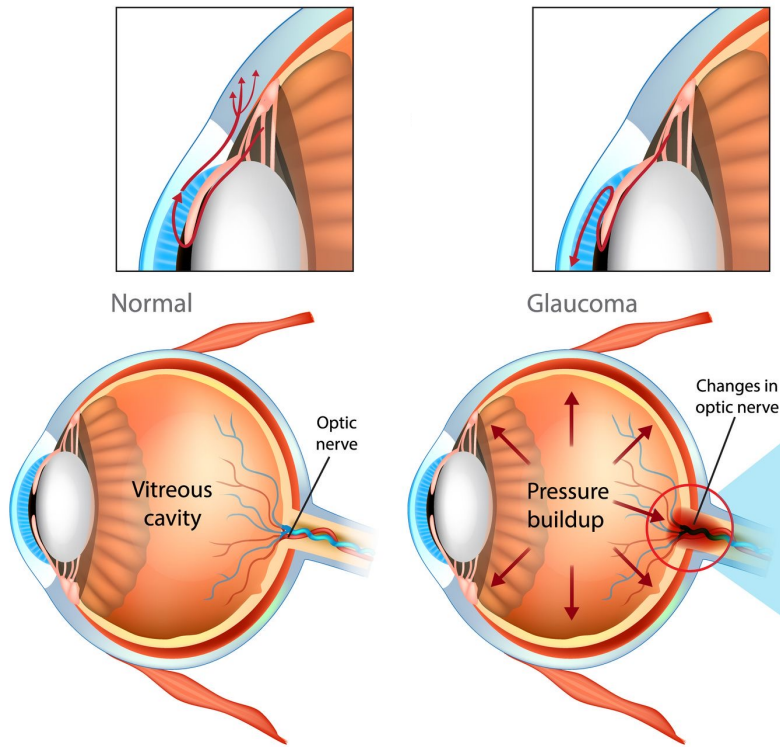
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Criteria #4

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Criteria #4

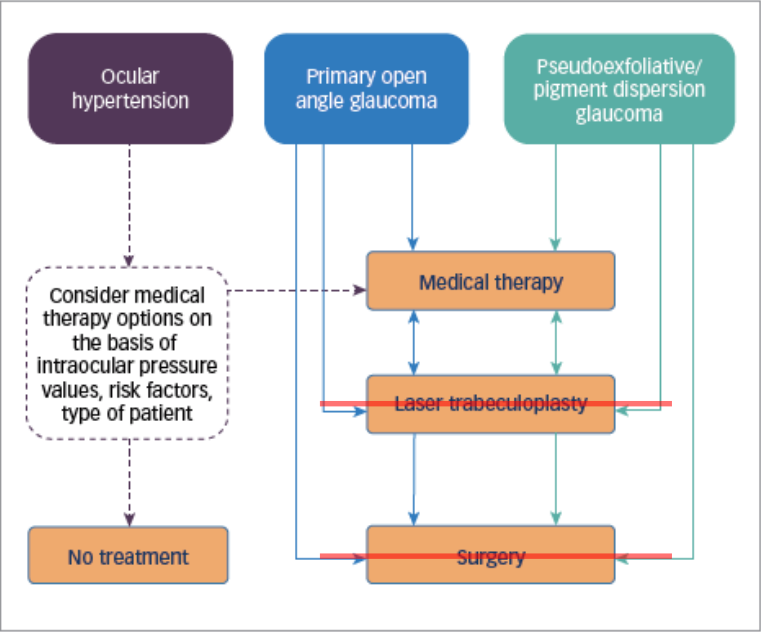
How do optometrists evaluate the glaucoma patient?



Criteria #4

How do optometrists currently manage glaucoma in NE?

Figure 1: Treatment options for primary open angle glaucoma according to the European Glaucoma Society

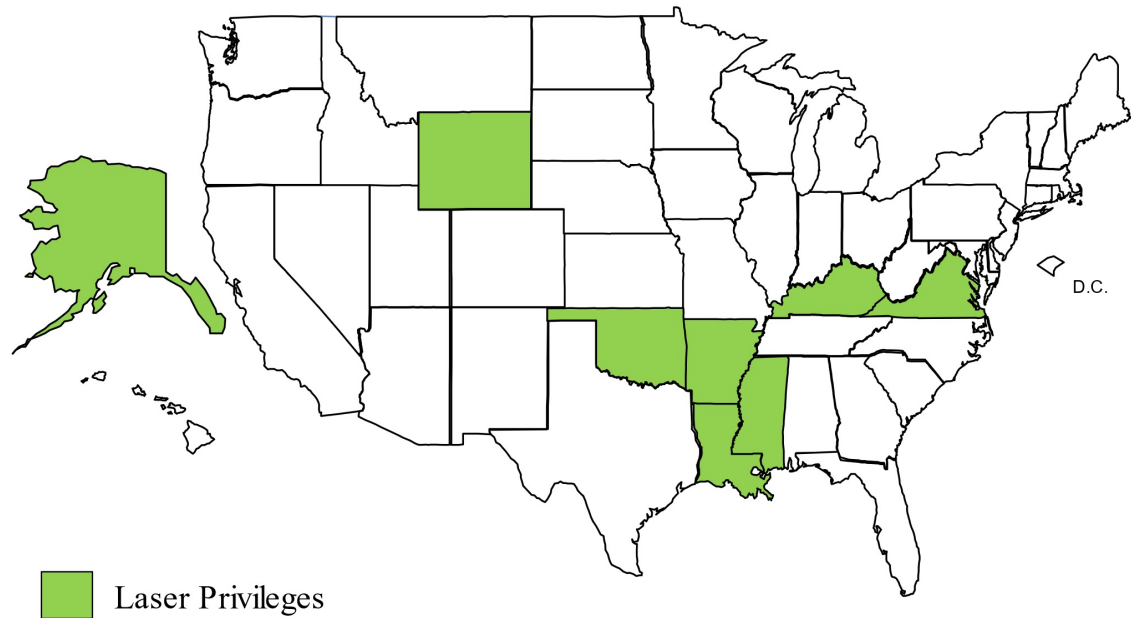


The proposed change in scope of practice would authorize Doctors of Optometry to perform a procedure called **Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)** for treatment of glaucoma.

Criterion #1, 4

Laser Privileges

What are other states doing?



What is different about an SLT?

Slit Lamp



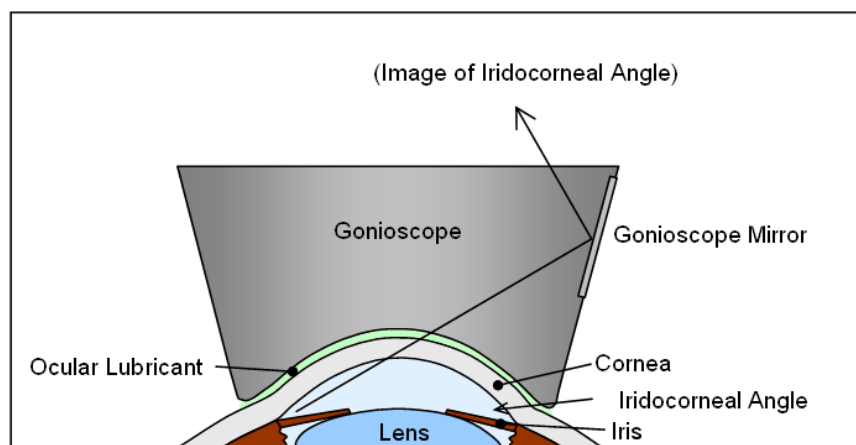
SLT Equipped Slit Lamp



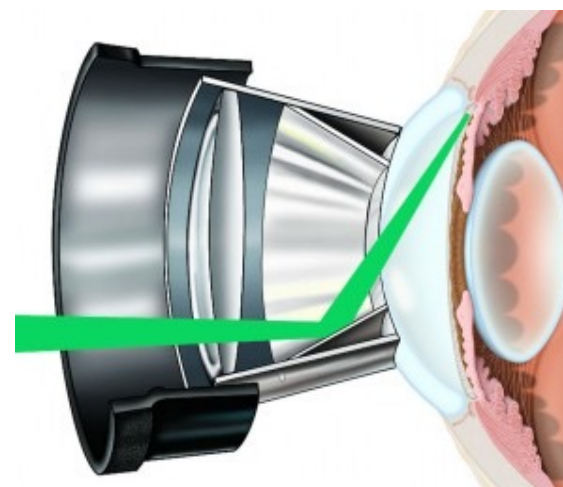
Criteria #4

What is different about an SLT?

Gonioscopy Optics



SLT Optics



Criteria #4

What is the new authority being requested?



Criteria #4

What does the procedure look like?



Criteria #4

Summary of Optometric Education

- **Doctoral degree program** similar to Medicine, Dentistry, and Podiatry
- **Four-year undergraduate** Bachelor's degree
- **Four-year post-graduate** doctoral program leading to the Doctor of Optometry degree
 - ~10,000 hours
 - ~2,000 patient encounters
- Optional post-doctoral residencies are available in a variety of optometric disciplines but are not required for licensure
- Colleges are accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) which is **recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).**

Criterion #3, 4, 5

Current licensure requirements

- Must have graduated from an **accredited college of optometry**
- Must have passed all three Parts of **National Board of Examiners in Optometry Examination**
- Must pass an examination of laws governing the practice of optometry in Nebraska
- Every two years a licensed optometrist **must obtain 44 hours of optometric continuing medical education** to maintain an active license to practice optometry in Nebraska.

Criteria #4

Two Proposed Options to become Certified to Perform SLT in NE

Option One (New or Recent Graduates)

- The Doctor of Optometry applying for certification **must meet all requirements for licensure for diagnostic and therapeutic certification** to practice optometry in Nebraska; and
- The accredited college of optometry from which the doctor of optometry **graduated must certify that the doctor has passed a curriculum consistent with the didactic, laboratory, and clinical requirements described in our proposal;** and
- The doctor of optometry must have **passed the laser portion of the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.**

Criterion #3, 4, 5, 6

Two Proposed Options to become Certified to Perform SLT in NE

Option Two (For those already in practice)

- The Doctor of Optometry applying for certification **must be licensed in Nebraska with diagnostic and therapeutic certification.**
- The doctor must submit evidence to the Board of Optometry of **completion of the continuing education(CE) curriculum** from an accredited college of optometry as described in our proposal.
- The doctor must **pass a written and practical examination** administered by the accredited college of optometry following completion of the CE curriculum.
- The **doctor must be proctored for a minimum of three SLT procedures** by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who is certified to perform SLT procedures in Nebraska.

Criterion #3, 4, 5, 6



What are the risks associated with SLT?

- **Elevated Intraocular Pressure (4.5%)** – Typically Transient (4 days to 3 months)
- **Iritis (83%)** – Typically Transient (5 days)
 - 1 reported case of ciliary effusion (resolved with treatment)
- Corneal swelling (0.8%) – Typically transient (1 month)
- Hyphema – 3 reported cases
- Macular swelling – 9 reported cases
- Macular burn/scar – 1 reported case – the ophthalmologist thought they were using a yag laser for a capsulotomy and burned the patient's macula

*****These are all risks that optometrists manage today.**

Criterion #3, 6

What is the current and future need?

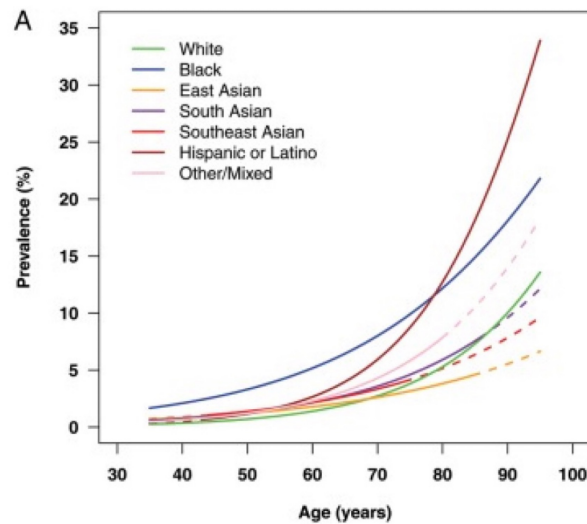


FIGURE 1. Estimated prevalence (%) of primary open-angle glaucoma with age for men and women combined by ethnicity. Colored lines come from regression models adjusting for age, fitted separately for different ethnicities. Solid lines are given across the age range of available data for each ethnic group.

Adapted from Kapetanakis V, Chan M, Foster P, et al. Global variations and time trends in the prevalence of primary open angle glaucoma (POAG): a systematic review and meta analysis. *Br J Ophthalmol.* 2016 Jan;100(1):86-93.

~18,557 Patients with glaucoma in NE

**Beaver Dam Eye Study
Glaucoma Prevalence:**

- 2.1% over age 40

**2019 NE Population
over 40:**

- 883,694

Criteria #2



How Common is This Procedure Now?

2019 ▾

Medicare Physician & Other
Practitioners - by
Geography and Service



**~18,557 Patients with
glaucoma in NE**

CMS Data - NE

- 1,273 Procedures
 - 943 in facility
 - 356 patients
 - 325 in office
 - 272 patients
- 24 Providers



What is the cost of the equipment?

Common Technology in OD Practices

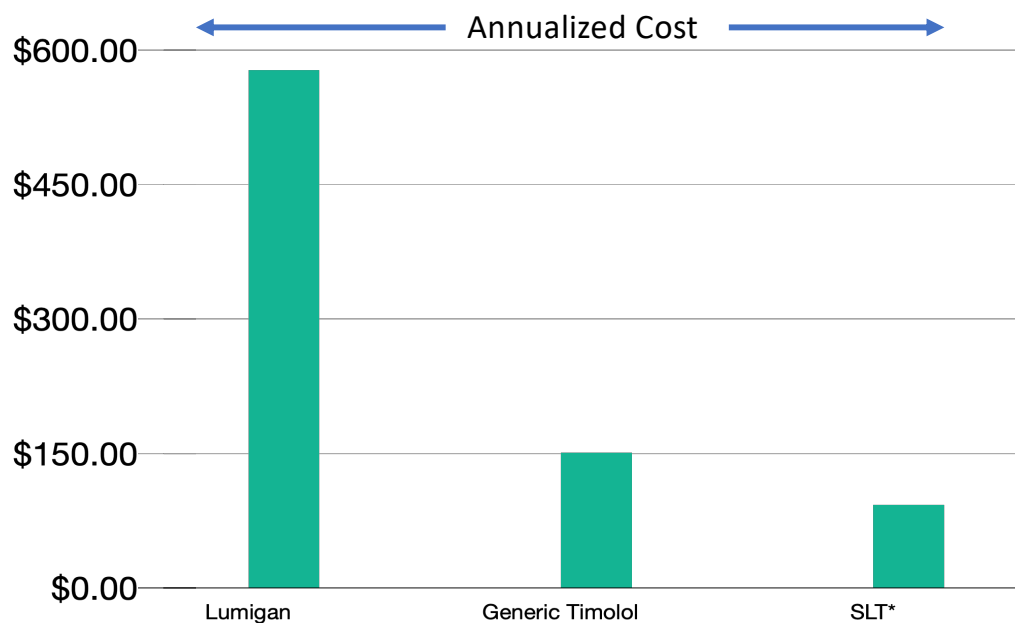
- Optomap
 - \$70,000 - \$100,000
- OCT
 - \$40,000 - \$80,000
- Visual Field
 - \$20,000 - \$40,000
- Slit Lamp
 - \$8,000 - \$25,000

SLT

- SLT (includes slit lamp)
 - \$20,000 - \$60,000

Health Care Cost Benefit Comparison: SLT versus Medications

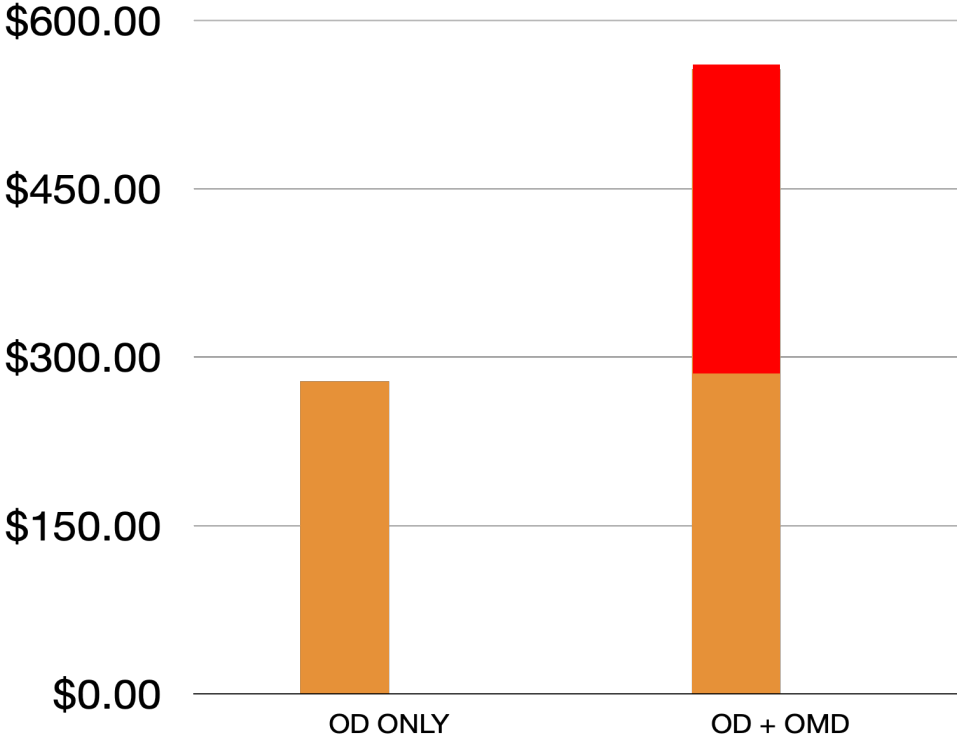
*“Compared with medication, SLT provided a stable, drop-free IOP control to 74.2% of patients for at least 3 years, with a reduced need for surgery, lower cost and comparable health related quality of life. **Based on the evidence, SLT seems to be the most cost-effective first-line treatment option for glaucoma and ocular hypertension, also providing better clinical outcomes.**” (Gazzard, 2019).



Health Care Cost Benefit Comparison: Proposal vs. Status Quo



*“The cost benefits are even greater when patients do not need repeat SLT for three years after the initial treatment. Additionally, SLT also abates the compliance issues surrounding the use of drops, killing two birds with one stone.”



Summary

- Optometric practice in Nebraska **already requires broad knowledge** of medical care, use of **highly technical skills & instrumentation**, and **management of complications** or unintended outcomes
- Nebraska ODs have **successfully managed glaucoma, including SLT post-operative care**, for more than 20 years
- **Optometric training** for performing SLT has already been **proven to be adequate and appropriate in other states**
- Greater access to SLT will **benefit thousands of Nebraska patients** and **reduce health care costs**

Criterion #2, 5