

Mission Statement

Society to Advance Opticianry – Visual Assessment Specialist

The established purpose of the Visual Assessment Specialist by the Society to Advance Opticianry (hereinafter referred to as the SAO) is to expand the scope of delivery of visual health services by credentialed ophthalmic personnel in the rapidly emerging world of telemedicine. The SAO is a professional organization dedicated to the advanced level practice of Ophthalmic Optics at the highest levels of proficiency by the most qualified and credentialed personnel. The Visual Assessment Specialist will provide visual services under the auspices of a valid state licensed Ophthalmologist or Optometrist for such procedures as routine occupational visual screenings i.e., such as CDL renewals for Truck Drivers, Airline Pilots, students returning to school, rechecks for spectacle and contact lenses prescriptions, etc. These services will be delivered using the standard equipment required for performing said services in settings very much identical to the well care stations currently in use in many corporate retail pharmacy locations throughout the United States. The US Veterans Administration currently uses similar personnel at its facilities throughout the United States for veterans. The Allied Health practitioner will be certified by the SAO as a Visual Assessment Specialist with all rights and privileges appertaining thereunto such national certification. The SAO has the sole legal credentialing authority as approved by the highly respected ICE (Institute for Credentialing Excellence). Said title is under the exclusive control and jurisdiction of the SAO. The Visual Assessment Specialist will undergo a rigorous practical training regimen and robust academic examination to be granted the title of “Visual Assessment Specialist.” The title of Visual Assessment Specialist will be retained through the requirement of Continuing Education. The need for professionally trained ancillary ophthalmic medical personnel is expected to grow phenomenally, as we enter the 2nd decade of the 21st century with the SAO leading the way in training and credentialing.