

December 17, 2004

**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 in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities. *NOTE: VHA Directive 2004-045, Laser Eye Procedures, is rescinded.*

2. BACKGROUND: VHA Directive 2004-045, issued August 24, 2004, provided that optometrists with appropriate training and licensure could be given authority to perform therapeutic laser eye procedures under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy that therapeutic laser eye procedures only be performed by ophthalmologists with the requisite training and expertise.

4. ACTION: Each medical center Director is responsible for ensuring that privileges to perform laser eye procedures are granted to ophthalmologists with the requisite training and expertise.

5. REFERENCES

- a. VHA Handbook 1121, VHA Eye Care.
- b. VHA Handbook 1100.19, Credentialing and Privileging.

6. RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: The Office of Patient Care Services (11) is responsible for the contents of this Directive. Questions are to be referred to 202-273-8474.

7. RESCISSIONS: VHA Directive 2004-045 is rescinded. This VHA Directive expires December 31, 2009.

S/Jonathan B. Perlin, MD, PhD, MSHA, FACP
Acting Under Secretary for Health

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THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2009