Scope Expansion Overview

New Authorities:

- Independent Management of Open Angle Glaucoma Patients
- Corneal & Conjunctival Foreign Body Removal (with any tool other than a scalpel)
  - Central Axis - foreign body may not perforate Bowman’s
  - Other - foreign body may not perforate Mid Stroma
- Ordering/Performing Tests
  - Bloodwork with physician consultation and results reported back to consulting M.D.
  - Cultures and swabs (no genetic tests)
  - Image testing (OTHER THAN RADIOGRAPHIC)
- Rx of ALL Topical Agents (except topic anti-metabolites)
- Rx of ALL Oral Pharmaceutical Agents with the following exceptions:
  - Controlled Dangerous Substances
  - Anti-fungals
  - Immuno-modulatory Agents
  - Immuno-suppressives (carve out for up to 1 month dose of oral steroids w/physician consultation)
  - Anti-metabolites
  - Glaucoma Medications to children under 18 years of age
  - ANY Oral Medications to children under 16 years of age

Licensure Changes & Requirements:

- Quality Assurance Program (QEI) discontinued effective March 1, 2020
- 10-Hour Board approved mandatory course required for maintenance of TPA certification effective July 1, 2020 only offered by the MOA and the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute
- Failure to take the course will result in a license status change to DPA effective July 1, 2020

Continuing Education Changes
(Effective May 20, 2019)

- Credit for continuing education must accredited or Board approved
- Board accepts COPE or Non-COPE programs which are accepted as equivalent to ACCME.
- 10-Hours each renewal cycle must be in-person taken in Maryland by the MOA, another statewide association or non-profit
- Minimum of 20 percent of renewal applications will be audited
- Courses, seminars and lectures prepared and given by Maryland licensees increased to 16 hours per renewal cycle
- Online courses increased up to 30 hours per renewal cycle
- Clinical observation at approved sites increased up to 8 hours per renewal cycle
- Courses in cultural competency up to 4 hours maximum per renewal cycle
- Fractional credit hours are allowed
Important Licensure Information

1. **Practice Date** - TPA certified optometrists can begin practice at the expanded scope as early as March 1, 2020 provided the 10-Hour course has been taken and the Board has received documentation.

2. **Reciprocity** - All licensure applicants coming from other jurisdictions must take the 10-Hour course to be TPA certified, regardless, except for individuals who graduated from schools and colleges of optometry beginning July 1, 2019.

3. **TPA Downgrade** - Any TPA certified optometrist who fails to take the required course and provide documentation to the Board by June 30, 2020, will automatically be downgraded to DPA certification.

4. **TPA Upgrade** - In order to be re-certified at the TPA level, licensees must take a Board approved 10-Hour course and meet the current requirements for TPA certification.