

Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting Recertification

The certification period for this sub-specialty is 36 months and it is linked to your core level certification cycle. Because the two are linked, your first certification period in this sub-specialty may be shorter than the standard 36 months. Once the two cycles are synchronized, you will be due to apply for recertification in both areas every 36 months.

Example: David passed the ophthalmic surgical assisting computer-administered exam on June 15, 2007. He is also a COT. His current technician certificate is valid from January 2006, through January 2009. His new certificate, with the ophthalmic surgical assisting sub-specialty, will be dated January 2006 to January 2009. He will be due to apply for recertification in both areas by the deadline of January 31, 2009. After this, his certification cycle for both areas will be January 2009 through January 2012.

At the end of your certification cycle, you will need to submit the following information to JCAHPO, postmarked no later than the last day of the month in your certification cycle:

- **A completed application for recertification.**

JCAHPO will mail you a reminder approximately six months in advance of the time you are due to apply for recertification in your core level. A separate application and fee are not required for the sub-specialty if submitted with your core level recertification application. The application requires the signature/endorsement of your sponsoring ophthalmologist. If you are unable to submit an application for recertification in ophthalmic surgical assisting, please indicate this on your recertification application.

- **A log of surgical cases in which you have participated during your certification cycle.**

You will need to submit a log of cases in which you have actively participated (not merely observed), functioning as one of the following: Sterile First Assistant, Sterile Scrub Assistant, or Non-sterile Circulator. The log must include a signature from your sponsoring ophthalmologist attesting to your continued satisfactory performance in the operating room.

The log must include 10 cases for each 12 months of sub-specialty certification during the current cycle (30 cases for each 36-month certification cycle). The cases may have occurred during any portion of the current certification period. If you are required to apply for recertification in less than 36 months, the case requirement is prorated for each 12-month period.

Case Requirements for Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting Recertification

The case requirement is divided into two groups: Categories A and B. You may choose to earn 100 percent of your case requirement from Category A, or you may choose to earn at least 80 percent of the case log from Category A and the remaining cases from Category B. See Category A and B lists.

Category A (at least 80%)	• Retina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Scleral Buckle · Vitrectomy · Membrane removal · Endo laser
	• Lens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Cataract extraction +/- IOL · Secondary IOL · IOL exchange
	• Strabismus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Muscle procedure
	• Cornea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Penetrating Keratoplasty (PKP) · Lamellar/patch graft · Pterygium with conjunctival · Conjunctival autograft transplant
	• Oculo-Plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Dacryocystorhinostomy (DCR) · Levator procedures · Ptosis repair · Orbital decompression · Ectropion & Entropion repair · Lid laceration · Full thickness lid tumor · Endoscopic brow lift
	• Glaucoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Trabeculectomy · Seton procedures
	• Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Scleral patch
Category B (no more than 20%)	• Lens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reposition IOL
	• Strabismus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Botulinum toxin injection
	• Cornea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Radial Keratotomy (RK) · Automated lamellar keratoplasty (ALK) · Pterygium · Lasik · Astigmatic Keratotomy (AK) · Excimer laser surgeries (e.g., PRK, PTK)
	• Oculo-Plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Blepharoplasty · Conjunctivoplasty · Tarsorrhaphy · Canthal plication · Chalazion · Trichiasis · Temporal artery biopsy · Nasolacrimal duct (NLD) probing · Excision of mass - partial thickness lid tumor · Conjunctival tumors

Alternatives for Ophthalmic Surgical Assisting Recertification

You have the option of attending CE courses to fulfill a portion of the case log requirement. You may earn up to 10 CE credits by attending courses in ophthalmic surgical assisting to substitute for up to 10 of the cases in the surgical experience requirement. You may attend courses that have been awarded JCAHPO or AMA CME Category 1 credit. You may not use self-study for the purposes of recertification in ophthalmic surgical assisting.

You also have the option of re-testing in lieu of submitting the case log. Please contact the JCAHPO Certification Department for the prerequisites and more details.