

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Online Continuing Education Program

Continuing education (CE) allows the paraoptometric to stay current within the eye care field and is especially important in the study of direct patient care and office competency. Additionally, certified paraoptometrics must obtain 18 hours of CE credit from approved education providers to maintain certification designation. The Paraoptometric Section (PS) provides six FREE articles each year (one every other month) for PS members that are worth one hour of CE. Any Section member who reads the article and successfully answers the exam questions will receive CE slips by mail.

The articles are designed to cover a broad scope of patient issues including patient care, disease treatment, and ophthalmic dispensing. Participants should review each article and complete the accompanying continuing education examination. Each accurately completed examination is worth one hour of paraoptometric continuing education credit. The corresponding CE exams expire at the end of each year. Please allow four to six weeks to receive proof of CE.

The AOA Paraoptometric Section is dedicated to supporting its members as they continue to seek and maintain the knowledge necessary to provide quality eye health care for patients.

Continuing Education Article Archive

To meet the needs of PS members who need additional CE for recertification requirements, the section is happy to offer articles from our CE Archive worth one hour of CE per article.

Members may purchase access to an article for just \$10, and will receive one hour of CE for successfully passing the exam at the end of the article. There is no limit on the number of titles a member may choose. Topics include:

- Cataracts for Beginners
- Color Vision
- Computer Vision Syndrome
- Contacts Lenses and Allergies (2 Hours of CE Credit)
- Fitting Progressive Addition Lenses
- Gas-Permeable Contact Lenses: What the Paraoptometric Needs to Know
- Glaucoma: The Silent Thief of Sight
- Headache Case History
- Here's Looking at You Kid
- Ocular Effects of Diabetes
- Providing Vision Care for The Alzheimer's Patient
- Retinal Nerve Fiber Analysis: the Role It Plays in Assessing Glaucoma
- Telephone Reopenings Process vs. Duplicate Claim Submissions
- That Magic Moment When Your Patient Knows You Care
- The Dynamic Dispensary
- The Paraoptometric's Role in InfantSEE®
- The Power of Suggestion
- To Buy or Not to Buy
- Treating Dry Eye for Contact Lens Patients' Comfort and for Practice Growth
- Trying to Sell That Second Pair? Think Safety
- Update on Lens Materials, Designs and Coatings
- Visual Fields: The Path Less Taken
- Vitreous Detachments
- Who's a Good Candidate for Contact Lenses, When to Choose Glasses Over Contact Lenses, and Who Decides?

The AOA
Paraoptometric
Section offers
several continuing
education opportunities
for paraoptometrics.





Self-Assessment Examination - Study Material

The self-assessment exam includes 350 multiple choice questions on information covered in the Self-Study Course for Paraoptometric Certification textbook and may be completed in a convenient timeframe. After completion, a member may mail the self-assessment examination to the Paraoptometric Section office in St. Louis for grading. If a member answers 249 questions correctly, they will receive 12 hours of continuing education credit and a certificate of achievement. Once a paraoptometric is certified at any level, he or she must obtain 18 hours of approved CE credit over the course of three years to maintain certification designation. The Self Assessment Examination is a great resource for training or studying.

Paraoptometric Section Member Price: \$65 /OD Member Price \$80/Non-Member Price: \$90

*All prices include shipping and handling charges

Home Study Education Modules

Members interested in receiving continuing education credit or expanding one's knowledge about a specific topic, may access the Section's educational module collection. The Section recently developed 10 education modules which may be utilized for educational purposes. Topics include:

- Fitting Soft Toric Contact Lenses (Courtesy of SpecialEyes)
- Optimizing Efficiency in the Optical Dispensary (Courtesy of HOYA)
- The ABCs of Optical Dispensing (Courtesy of Luxottica Group)
- Soft Contact Lens Wear & Care Module (Courtesy of Bausch & Lomb)
- Practice Management 101 Module
- Ophthalmic Dispensing Module
- Anatomy and Physiology Module
- Special Procedures Module

The modules have been designed in an easy-to-use automated, audio Power Point format, perfect for at-home study. The modules would also be great for educational offerings during staff meetings in the practice. Staff can participate in the lecture portion of the course and then download the CE exam for individual use. With the successful completion of the examination members may receive one hour of CE per module. The cost of each modules is \$45 for AOA PS member/\$50 OD Member/\$60 for non-member, in addition to a usage fee for the actual actual CE exam. For information on the modules currently available or on authoring a module, please contact the Paraoptometric Section at PS@aoa.org.

Article Submission Process

The AOA Paraoptometric Section has launched a major campaign to recruit authors of articles for use by the section to provide continuing education for its members. The Section is interested in articles on topics included in the handbooks for the paraoptometric certification examinations. You may view the handbook outlines in detail at www.aoa.org.

Topics may include: Practice Management, Ophthalmic Optics & Dispensing, Pre-testing Procedures, Clinical Procedures, Refractive Status of the Eye and Binocularity, Basic Ocular Anatomy and Physiology, Contact Lenses, Low Vision, Sports Vision, Ophthalmic Prescriptions, and Frames Sales and Inventory.

The Section is soliciting articles that are written for basic, intermediate, and advanced levels of knowledge, so it can serve the varying needs of its membership. The AOA PS believes optimal patient care can only be provided when paraoptometrics are well-educated and informed members of the eye care team. That is why the Section must provide continuing education articles for all levels. Authors whose articles are selected for publication in any paraoptometric continuing education opportunity will be able to take part in the incentive program. The Section will provide paraoptometric continuing education credit to authors used for paraoptometric education based on the length of the article written. The specifics of the incentive program include:

- A published article worth one continuing education credit to the reader will be worth three CE credits to the author.
- A published article worth two continuing education credits to the reader will be worth six CE credits to the author.
- Articles that are published and exceed these specific guidelines will merit three times the number of CE credits awarded to the reader.