

The California Paraoptometric Section is interested in having more volunteers serve on the section's board. Please join us in developing useful programs for our members, and to spread the word by recruiting new CPS members! Contact Kim Pantel for more information at [khym@hotmail.com](mailto:khym@hotmail.com).



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## PARAOPTOMETRIC CERTIFICATION — WHO NEEDS IT?

### Why doctors should employ certified paraoptometrics, opticians and contact lens technicians.

Certified staff allows you to make the most efficient use of office time. If both you and your staff operate at the highest level possible, it reinforces the professional image of the office, enhances patient satisfaction and trust, increases the potential for additional referrals to your practice, and keeps the practice profitable. Certification is an indication of current proficiency. Several states are moving toward requiring optometric staff certification. Even your hair dresser has to provide proof of their knowledge and skills. Wouldn't your valued patients feel better knowing that you have surrounded them with professional and proficient care givers?

**Why staff should be certified.** Professional certification allows you to build self-esteem and be proud of your accomplishments. That pride and self-assurance will demonstrate to patients, co-workers and employers that you are a committed professional. The more you learn, the more you realize how much more you will want to expand your knowledge and skills. Certification and re-certification provide an investment in your professional development, encouraging you to advance further. The more you progress in your career, the more advantages you have when being considered for promotions and increased delegation of responsibilities. Certification announces your professional credentials to the public and promotes those who stand out in the industry.

**Which certification should be chosen?** Choosing a certification depends on how your practice is structured, and in which direction you would like to hone your career. You may decide to choose one or all, but be sure to research which certification is best for you or your staff. Here is a list of organizations who currently offer paraoptometric certification programs, all of which have their own Web sites that outline each of their programs and requirements.

- **American Board of Opticianry** certifies opticians, those who design, create and dispense eyewear. A Master's Program is available.
- **National Contact Lens Examiners** certifies technicians who fit and dispense contact lenses.
- **American Optometric Association Commission on Paraoptometric Certification** certifies all paraoptometric staff: receptionist, health tester, biller, office manager, frame and lens technicians, and contact lens dispensers on a wide range of subject matter. Beginner, intermediate and advanced level certifications are available.

No matter which type certification you choose to pursue, the California Paraoptometric Section (CPS) offers certification testing study materials through the CPS Resource Library. **Best of all, borrowing privileges are complimentary to all CPS members!**

To learn more about the different certification programs available please visit the *Certification & Optical Training and Career Guidance* sections of the California Paraoptometric Section's Web site at [www.cpsection.org](http://www.cpsection.org).

### CPS Update



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