

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, ASSAM  
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No. DME. 434531/5

From:-

Prof.(Dr.) Anup Kr. Barman,  
Director of Medical Education, Assam.The Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,  
Health & Family Welfare Department, Dispur.

Sub:-

Regarding letter received from Optometry Association of Assam requesting  
clarification on Independent Practice Rights of optometrists in Assam.

Ref:-

No. 271753/1319, Dated 17/01/24

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am to forward herewith a copy of letter along with enclosure Regarding letter received from Optometry Association of Assam requesting clarification on Independent Practice Rights of optometrists in Assam from the constituted committee comprising of an Ophthalmologist, an Optometrist and officer from Office of the Director of Medical Education, Assam to study the roles and scopes of independent practice of Optometrists and submit a report as per provisions in " The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act 2021, ISCO code 2267 and any legal verdicts in this regard.

This is for information and necessary action.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by

Anup Kumar Barman

Date: 16-03-2024 13:50:37

Director of Medical Education, Assam

Memo No. DME. 434531/5 - A

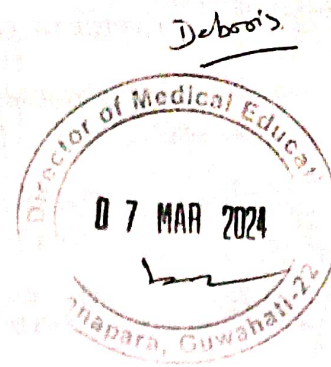
Copy forwarded to:

1. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, ME&R Department, Dispur for your kind information.

-- e-signed--

Director of Medical Education, Assam

To  
The Director of Medical Education, Assam  
Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-22



Subject: Roles and Scopes of Independent Practice of Optometrists In Assam.

Ref. : DME/434531/5, dated, 24/01/2024

Dated: Guwahati, the 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Sir,

With reference to your Letter No: DME/434531/5 Dtd24/01/24, the Committee is submitting herewith Roles and Scopes of Independent Practice of Optometrists prepared as per provisions in "The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Profession Act 2021" (ISCO Code OPTOMETRIST. 2267) and also as per the letter of Deputy Director General (Ophth), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Directorate General of Health Services, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi Vide No. L.11013/14/2010 - NCD/BC, dtd 19/08/2010 and also by the Letter issued by the Head of the Department of Ophthalmology Dr. R. M. L. Hospital & PGIMER, New Delhi on 11/07/2014, which are as follows:

The Profession of Optometry is a part of Modern Medical Science and the Optometrists with a minimum Four Years Bachelor Degree (B. OPTOM) are Trained Professionals who can work in connection with other Eye/Healthcare Professionals/ Optical Outlets/ Institutions (Govt/Private). They play a leading role in Eye Care Provision at the Primary/Secondary/and Tertiary levels and other Healthcare Providers towards the unified goal of combating blindness in the region.

Duties and Responsibilities of OPTOMETRISTS as proposed :-

- 2018  
08/02/24
1. Examining Patient's Eyes and conducting Diagnostic Test to assess Visual Acuity (Distant, Near and Color Vision.)
  2. Testing Visual Function using specialized instruments and equipment for measuring Visual Acuity and Refractive Error (Myopia, Hypermetropia, Astigmatism and Presbyopia) and to prescribe Corrective Glasses.
  3. Examining the function of Visual Pathways, Field of vision (Peripheral and Central), Eye Movements and Intra Ocular Pressure and performing other tests using special eye test equipment.
  4. Prescribing Corrective Eye Glasses, Contact Lenses and other Vision Aids and checking Optical Devices for performance, safety comfort and lifestyle.
  5. Detecting and diagnosing Ocular Movement Disorder and defects of Binocular Vision and planning for Binocular Vision Therapy including counselling patients for Ocular Exercises to coordinate movement and focusing eyes.
  6. Vision Screening for School going Children for early detection of Refractive Error, Squint, Amblyopia and other Pediatric Eye Disorders.
  7. Providing Pediatric Vision Therapy, Vision Training, or Orthoptic Exercises for children with learning problems or common Binocular Vision Disorders including Strabismus and Amblyopia.

Sub.  
07/03/2024

Pankaj Baruah.

Anurita Adhikary



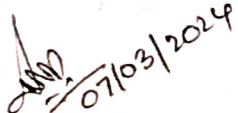
8. Prescribing Prisms to correct Squint/ Amblyopia.
9. Providing Low vision and Rehabilitative Service - Vision Aids assisting Visually Impaired Patients to use their Functional Vision more effectively.
10. Advising Visual Health Matters such as Contact Lens Care, Vision Care for Elderly (Geriatric Vision Therapy), Sports (Sports Vision Therapy), Occupational (Occupation Vision Therapy) and Industrial Eye Safety.
11. Medical Intervention at Primary level for few Mild Ocular Disorders like Conjunctivitis, Trachoma, Ocular Allergies, Dry Eyes, Eye Lid Problems (Stye, Chalazion, Blepharitis), Evaluation of Lacrimal System Disorder, Vit - A deficiency Associated Ocular Disorders.
12. Detecting, Diagnosing and Managing ocular diseases including prescribing medications limited to:  
a) Basic antibiotic eye drops b) Miotics c) Mydriatics & Cycloplegics d) Vitamins and Minerals e) Topical Anesthetics f) Pain Killers, Antihistamines and Anti-Allergic g) Tear Substitutes in Contact Lens Practice.
13. Minor Surgical Procedures limited to -  
a) Superficial Foreign Body Removal from the Conjunctiva and Lid without Surgery or any Invasive Techniques b) Epilation for Trichiasis
14. Enucleation of Eyeball from Deceased Donor for Corneal Transplantation.
15. Consulting with and referring patients to Ophthalmologist or Other Appropriate Health Care Professionals if Additional Medical/ Surgical treatment is necessary
16. Offering Public Eye Health Education on Hygiene and related Nutritional and Environmental counselling in School, Colleges, Urban Slums, Rural areas and also in Industries.


In view above, the committee is of the opinion that independent practice by Optometrists, if permitted, may perhaps be limited to the duties and responsibilities as proposed above.

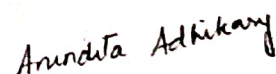
However, they will be free to assist any recognized Ophthalmologist or work in hospitals in the capacity of an Optometrist.

This is for favour of your kind information and necessary action

Yours faithfully

  
Prof. Anup Kr. Das  
Controller of Examinations  
O/o the DME, Assam cum  
Chairman

  
Dr. Pankaj Baruah  
Associate Professor of  
Ophthalmology, RIO,  
Guwahati cum Member

  
Anindita Adhikary  
Optometrist, GMCH cum  
Member