

WHAT IS A PARAOPTOMETRIC?

Paraoptometric

By definition, paraoptometrics are allied health professionals who assist doctors of optometry in providing their highest level of eye and vision care to the public. There is a great distinction between ophthalmic technicians or assistants and paraoptometrics. Paraoptometrics are exclusively trained to assist doctors of optometry.

AOA Membership

Paraoptometrics employed by AOA member doctors of optometry may become AOA associate members and have access to all current paraoptometric member benefits and services at no charge to the staff member or the AOA member doctor of optometry.



243 N. Lindbergh Blvd. | St. Louis, MO 63141
800.365.2219 | aoa.org | memberservices@aoa.org



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Job Responsibilities

Paraoptometrics assist with (but are not limited to):

- Greeting patients once they walk into your place of practice, reception communication, appointment scheduling, and coordination of patient flow.
- Billing and coding and insurance processing, submitting claims to the patient's insurance carrier for processing and payment.
- History taking, pretesting, and diagnostic testing for the doctor's interpretation.
- Contact lens and optical dispensing.
- Low vision, pediatric exams, and vision therapy treatments.
- Eye exams conducted by the optometrist.
- Patient education.
- Special procedures and may support the doctor of optometry while performing surgical procedures.
- Office management and administrative duties.



Deliver Quality Patient Care

Paraoptometrics are an essential component of a successful optometric practice. With the help of a paraoptometric, optometrists can spend more time with their patients providing vital medical care. Paraoptometrics support the doctor of optometry by performing certain tasks, such as pre-eye exam procedures, patient education, scribing and eye glass selection.

Certification

Paraoptometric certification provides many benefits to an optometric practice. Certified paraoptometrics demonstrate a higher level of knowledge, commitment, and dedication to the profession. Certified paraoptometrics provide doctors of optometry with a competitive edge and deliver patients with a maximum level of confidence.

The AOA Commission on Paraoptometric Certification provides three levels of certification:

- Certified Paraoptometric (CPO)
- Certified Paraoptometric Assistant (CPOA)
- Certified Paraoptometric Technician (CPOT)

An additional speciality certification, Certified Paraoptometric Coder (CPOC), for those proficient in billing and coding, is also available.

