



# Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE<sup>®</sup>)

CLINICAL SKILLS CANDIDATE GUIDE

**EXAM DATES:**  
**August 2024 – May 2025**

*April 19, 2024*

The Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE) is composed of a Laser Section and a Surgical Section. Each section has a clinical skills practical portion, which will be audio and video recorded for review by a remote examiner for scoring purposes, and a computer-based (CB) multiple-choice portion. Candidates have the option to register for one or both sections. **If taking both sections (Laser and Surgical), you must register and pay for both sections individually.**

The evaluation forms, candidate guide, equipment list, and other helpful resources are available on the NBEO website at: <https://www.optometry.org/exam/lspe>.

**Candidates are expected to thoroughly review this manual in preparation for the LSPE. This manual contains all relevant information a candidate would need to adequately prepare for the clinical skills sections of the LSPE.**

**Candidates should be aware that most of the information in this manual will not be reviewed again during candidate orientation.**

## OVERVIEW OF TERMS

- **Candidate:** An individual taking the exam
- **Evaluation Form:** The yes-no checklist an examiner uses to evaluate the candidate.
- **Cycle:** The time allocation for the Laser (40 minutes) or Surgical (30 minutes) Section of the exam
- **Finished:** When a candidate has completed their performance and will no longer be scored on any exam items
- **Item:** A numbered procedural element within each skill
- **LSPE:** Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination
- **Model Patient (MP):** The nonliving patient utilized for candidate performance of certain skills
- **NBEO®:** National Board of Examiners in Optometry®
- **NCCTO®:** National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry
- **NCCTO Staff:** The full-time personnel responsible for executing the exam and serving as a candidate advocate and liaison to the NBEO, referred to as staff throughout this guide
- **Observation Time:** The 3-minute timeframe before the cycle begins where the candidate can familiarize themselves with the exam room
- **Proctor:** The individual who will monitor the examination for safety purposes
- **Remote Examiner (RE):** The individual responsible for scoring the candidate's performance remotely
- **Repeat:** When a candidate wishes to repeat a skill or item
- **Skill:** 1 of the 5 procedures performed in the LSPE (3 in Laser and 2 in Surgical)
- **Station:** An exam room that contains required skills to be assessed during a delineated time period
- **STOP:** When a candidate's performance is stopped for safety purposes

## EXAM PREPARATION

### PREPARATION

In addition to reviewing this candidate guide, the following information should be reviewed by candidates in preparing for their clinical exam:

- Evaluation Forms
  - The evaluation forms contain the items examiners use to assess candidate performance. The exam items are in the form of a yes-no checklist and items must be completed **in their entirety** to receive credit.
- Candidate Orientation Video
- LSPE Site Information & Equipment List
- Information regarding travel to Charlotte, hotels, etc.

These resources can be found at <https://www.optometry.org/exam/lspe>.

### EQUIPMENT

- All necessary equipment used during the exam will be provided by the NCCTO.
- Candidates should not bring any equipment with them to the test center.

### ATTIRE

- Candidates are expected to wear professional attire.
- NBEO interprets professional attire as attire that **EXCLUDES** jeans, shorts, athletic pants, t-shirts, scrubs, garments that could be viewed to be immodest (e.g., tank tops, sheer clothing), tennis shoes, sneakers, and/or flip flops.
- Collared short-sleeved shirts are acceptable.
- Candidates must bring and wear white lab coats throughout the exam.
- Candidates reporting to the test center in attire deemed to be inappropriate will be addressed by the NCCTO staff **and may not be permitted to take the exam**.
- Please use the provided restrooms to change clothing if needed.

### NBEO ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Candidates must know their OE Tracker # and NBEO password, which will be used to complete a required incident report at the end of their exam. This is the same password the candidate created and used to register for the NBEO exam and/or view scores on the NBEO website.

## ARRIVAL TO TEST CENTER

### REPORTING LOCATION

The reporting location is:

200 South College Street  
Suite 2020  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
(20<sup>th</sup> floor)

## REPORTING TIME

Candidates must report to the test center on the date and time for which they registered online.

- The check-in process begins at the time reflected on the registration. You can review your registration here: [review registration here](#)
- **Candidates should carefully check their registration date and time. Please note: if a Candidate arrives at the NCCTO on the wrong date and/or at the wrong time, the NCCTO will not be able to accommodate the Candidate. Candidates who arrive later than their scheduled exam date/time will need to register again and the standard exam fees will apply.**
- Candidates should anticipate being on-site for approximately 3 hours for each section. This time includes check-in, orientation, exam, and check-out **as well as the computer-based component.**
  - Candidates should arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to their listed registration report time.
  - In the event a candidate finds they have arrived to 200 S. College St., the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the building is connected to an indoor mall with restaurants, shops, and cafes. Candidates are welcome to spend time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor while waiting for their check-in time.
  - Candidates who arrive late for check-in may be disqualified from the examination session.
  - Space and time constraints prevent candidates from being rescheduled to a later session, and, in that event, the candidate then forfeits their right to being tested (and their examination fee) for that date's administration of LSPE Section(s).
- Candidates taking only the laser or surgical section should schedule return flights not sooner than 5 hours after their registration report time.
- Candidates taking both sections of the LSPE and who schedule their exam **sequentially**, should expect to be here approximately 5.5 hours and should schedule return flights no sooner than 7.5 hours after their report time. Please contact NCCTO if you have questions about your registered times before you make any reservations.

## PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

You will be required to show two valid forms of personal identification. In order to be considered valid, the ID must match the name used to register for the exam. Both forms must contain your signature and must be current (not expired). At least one form must be a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, a passport, or a military ID. The other ID may be a student identification card, a credit or debit card, or another card that has your name and signature. Candidates who do not have proper ID may be denied admission to the exam and are not eligible for a refund for the exam fee.

## ON-SITE EXAM DAY CHECK-IN

### ARM BANDS/CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION

- All candidates will be provided with two arm bands. These arm bands should be worn at all times during the exam, with the number displayed on the side of your arm.
- The front of the arm bands identifies your candidate ID #.
- On the back of the **right** arm badge will be each respective candidate's name and OE tracker number. These are provided for verification purposes.

### PHOTOGRAPH

- A staff member will be taking a picture of each candidate during the check-in process to assist in ensuring the correct candidate is being evaluated.
- For identification purposes, you should appear in the photo as you will during the exam. For instance, if you plan to wear glasses during the exam, you should have your glasses on during the photo; if you plan to have your hair pulled up in a ponytail, you should do so in your photo.

## PERSONAL ITEMS & LOCKER USE

- **Candidates will not be permitted to enter the NCCTO with any item considered luggage and must plan accordingly.**
  - Luggage items are considered suitcases, roller bags, (larger than backpack size), and any item not able to fit in the lockers.
  - **Candidates will be turned away if luggage is brought to the NCCTO and this could impact the amount of time a candidate has for orientation.**
  - **NO FIREARMS OR OTHER WEAPONS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED IN THE NCCTO. CANDIDATES FOUND TO BE IN POSSESSION OF ANY SUCH ITEM WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ADMITTANCE INTO THE NCCTO AND/OR WILL BE ESCORTED FROM THE PREMISES BY NCCTO SECURITY.**
- Lockers will be provided for candidates to store small personal items that are not allowed in the testing area. NCCTO considers personal items to be cell phones, watches, wallets, purses, backpacks, briefcases, etc.
  - Locker dimensions: 13 ½ inches deep, 11 7/8 inches wide, and 31 ½ inches tall. The opening is 9 inches wide.

## ORIENTATION

Following check-in, the candidates will be seated in the orientation room in which a slideshow presentation will be shown. This presentation is only intended to provide a brief overview of the expectations of the exam as well as to remind candidates about the highlights of the exam process. Following orientation, staff will be available to address any questions candidates may have. Candidates can view the orientation video on our website at <https://www.optometry.org/exam/lspe>.

## EQUIPMENT OVERVIEW IN ORIENTATION ROOM

Model eyes, suturing and chalazion models, as well as instruments, will be available in the orientation room for candidate familiarization. The slit lamp and model patient will not be available during orientation.

## HARD COPY AND ELECTRONIC FILES

- Candidates may keep written materials during the orientation time only. These should be placed in the candidate's locker prior to the start of the exam.
- **No notes (including either electronic or written materials) may be taken into the testing area at any time.**
- All notes and written materials must be left in the candidate locker or the lobby area.
- All notes taken during the exam on NCCTO provided materials must remain in the exam room.
- Any notes and/or written materials discovered during the exam will be confiscated by NCCTO staff and may be considered Improper Conduct (as defined in the Candidate Exam Conduct and Exam Security Agreement).
- **Please see the Candidate Agreement (available on the NBEO website) for information on Improper Conduct and the potential consequences for Improper Conduct.**

## DURING THE EXAMINATION

### REASONABLE ITEMS

- Candidates are allowed to take reasonable items into the exam room.

- All items must be provided to staff for inspection and approval.
- Examples of reasonable items are:
  - Tissues
  - Cough drops, mints, gum
  - Granola bar, other individually wrapped snack item
  - Lip balm, hair ties, hair clips, sanitary items, etc.
  - Eye patch
- Bottles of water/Gatorade/etc. (Labels must be removed, must contain a lid, and remain outside the exam room.)
- Pens and pencils will be provided for candidate use.

## CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION & INTRODUCTION

During the exam, do not refer to yourself by name, but by your OE tracker # (or at least the last 3 of your OE tracker #). For example, if your OE tracker # is 700000, you may introduce yourself as, “I am Candidate 700000” or “I am Candidate Dr. 000.”

## CLOCKS & TIME KEEPING

- Candidates are responsible for monitoring their time.
- No watches are allowed in the exam rooms.
- There is a synchronized wall clock in each exam room.
- Additionally, a countdown clock will be available on the exam room computer monitor for candidates to use. **Use of the countdown clock is optional. It is not the official timer for the exam; announcements are the official timers.**
- Proctors will not remind candidates of the remaining time at a station.
- If time expires before a candidate completes the station, the items not performed will be scored as “no.”

## LOCATION OF CAMERAS

There will be several video cameras in the Laser and Surgical Procedures Clinical Skills examination rooms. Most of these cameras are located on the ceiling and one is attached to the **left** ocular of the laser apparatus.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are five announcements that play throughout the exam:

1. **“Candidates, please enter the exam room”**- signals the candidate observation time has begun.
2. **“You have 30 seconds of observation time remaining”**
3. **“The exam cycle has begun”**- signals the official start of the exam cycle.
  - Candidates should close the exam room door.
4. **“The exam cycle has ended, please proceed to your next exam room”**- signals the official end of the exam cycle.

## EXAM STRUCTURE

### CANDIDATE OBSERVATION TIME:

- Candidates are provided with approximately 3 minutes of observation time in the station before the exam cycle begins.

- Station instructions are posted on the computer monitors for candidates to review.
  - Exam room computers are only for viewing the station instructions and using the countdown timer. Candidates are prohibited from using these computers for any other purpose.
- Any items performed before the exam begins (greeting patient, stating laser is inactive) will not be scored and must be repeated once the exam begins.

During the observation time, candidates are encouraged to:

- Become familiar with the layout
- Set out supplies that will be used (do not open packages)
- Practice adjusting the lighting
- Review the station instructions

During the observation time, candidates cannot:

- Perform any skill
- Activate the laser
- Write on any pieces of paper
- Open any sealed packages

## CANDIDATE COMPLETION OF A STATION

- The exam ends with the fifth announcement, or by the candidate stating they are finished, whichever occurs first.
- Candidates who finish the exam before the ending announcement plays and wish to end the scoring portion of the station may make the following statement to the proctor: “I am finished with this station.” At this time, the candidate **will not be scored on any additional skills/items** and the proctor will start preparing the room for the next candidate. It is up to the candidate whether or not to make this statement.
- If the candidate makes a confusing statement or begins any causal conversation, the proctor will remind the candidate that it is the candidates’ responsibility to let them know if they are finished with the station.

## PERFORMANCE OF SKILLS/ITEMS

- Items are sequenced in the order in which they should be optimally conducted.
- Candidates may alter the sequencing of certain items performed within a skill **as long as the candidate’s sequence makes logical sense.**

## REPEATING ITEMS/SKILLS

Repeat information is posted in each exam room for candidate review during the examination.

### Repeating Items

- Candidates can repeat item(s) as long as they are within the skill.

### Repeating Skills

- **Repeating an entire skill is not allowed on the LSPE.** Candidates will receive only one model for each procedure. This is to simulate the real-life nature of the clinical performance of each skill.

## NOTE-TAKING

Once the exam cycle begins, candidates will be provided with a ½ sheet of blank green paper. If for some reason you do not receive a piece of green paper, simply ask the proctor and they will provide it to you. Nothing written on this green paper will be scored and must be left in the exam room.

## PROCTOR

- A proctor will be present in the exam room throughout the candidate observation period and testing.

## OBSERVERS

Occasionally, additional personnel may be on-site observing the exam. Personnel may observe any aspect of the exam to include being in the exam room during the cycle. Observers will not have any effect on a candidate's score and should be ignored by the candidate. These personnel have been instructed not to converse with candidates or proctors in the examination rooms.

## CANDIDATE QUESTIONS DURING THE EXAM

- Outside of regular exam questions (e.g., inquiring about views, etc.), proctors will only answer "where" questions, such as where equipment switches are located, where the room lighting control is, or where supplies/clinical materials are located.
- Candidates may ask "where" questions at any time.
- Proctors can answer limited "set-up" questions during observation time.
- Questions on **how** to do things, **how** to use the equipment, or other instructional questions are not appropriate and will not be answered.
- **No additional examination time will be provided for any time used to ask and answer candidate questions.**

## STATING FINDINGS

- Candidates are strongly encouraged to talk through their exam.
- Candidates are encouraged to speak **clearly** and **audibly**
- Candidates are required to state their findings in the same manner as would be entered into a patient's medical record.

## SAFETY & PROCEDURE ATTEMPTS

### Handwashing

- Candidates are expected to follow the CDC's guideline for handwashing, which includes the specified timeframe of washing hands for at least 15 seconds.

### Safety

- During the station, proctors are responsible for ensuring safety. If a proctor believes the examination techniques or procedures used by a candidate are placing the model patient or the proctor at harm, the proctor may terminate the skill being assessed **at any time** and will state, "You are being stopped for safety reasons."
- Candidates should utilize proper safety techniques with the laser at all times. They should ensure that the laser is "cold" until ready to perform the appropriate procedure. The proctor may stop a candidate who exhibits improper technique. Additionally, remote examiners will appropriately score candidates who do not ensure a safe environment.
- Candidates must not operate the laser while the proctor is near the slit lamp. While the proctor is changing model eyes, the candidate must step away from the laser and ensure that it is in stand-by mode.
- If a candidate is stopped, they will be scored "no" on any remaining items in the stopped skill. Items leading up to the point of the stop will be scored as appropriate.
- In the event of candidate injury (needlestick, cut, etc.), staff will provide a bandage and gloves. Time lost to handle an injury will not be reinstated.
- Failure to maintain a safe environment may be considered Improper Conduct under the Candidate Agreement.

### Procedure Attempts

- Candidates should be aware that patient safety is of paramount concern by NBEO. All simulated models should be treated as if they are a real patient.

- Candidates should consider the impact **of repeating items within** a skill with regards to the impact it would have on a real patient. **Repeating entire skills is NOT allowed on the LSPE.**

## STAFF INTERACTIONS

Proctors and staff may appear to be neutral or show little emotion during the exam. Candidates should not regard this as a personal dislike or an indication of performance quality.

Candidates should be aware that NBEO is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). NBEO employees have a responsibility to treat others with dignity and respect at all times, and all staff (including SPs) complete periodic DEI training.

### Staff Interaction during Exam

- During the exam, proctors may say very little other than what has been scripted.
- If a candidate asks a question that cannot be answered, proctors or staff may respond with “I do not have that information,” “I can’t answer that,” or “It is up to you.” These comments are not indicators of a candidate’s performance or decisions, but simply an answer for a situation where the proctor/staff do not have a standardized response.
- If asked, proctors will not provide guidance on how/or what to perform. Candidates must use their best judgement in these situations

## MODEL PATIENT INTERACTIONS

### Titles

- Candidates may refer to the model patients as “Mr. or Ms. Lee.” “Lee” is the fictitious family name assigned to all NBEO patients.

## CASUAL CONVERSATION

- Beyond a cordial hello, proctors will not initiate any casual conversation with candidates.
- During the session, the proctor will be present in the exam room with the candidate. Casual conversation may occur **ONLY if the Candidate initiates the conversation.**
- Candidates may not ask about certain topics like:
  - Information regarding NBEO/NCCTO
  - Information regarding the LSPE or any NBEO exams
  - Questions about the proctor or their position (how long employed, experience with NBEO exams, etc.)
  - Candidate’s performance
  - Optometry School the candidate attends/attended
  - Other candidate information and/or performance

## CANDIDATE WOUNDS/INJURIES/MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

- Any open wounds on a candidate’s finger or hand must be covered.
- If you have questions or concerns about whether a potential wound needs to be covered, you can show the wound to staff during the check-in process.
- Should a candidate become injured during the exam, a band-aid and glove will be provided.
  - If a candidate believes they have injured themselves, they must notify personnel in the exam room.
  - When a candidate experiences an injury in which the potential for blood borne pathogen exposure is possible, candidates must use Universal Precautions. The CDC recommends Universal Precautions for the care of all patients, regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status.
  - Candidates should properly dispose of contaminated materials. Any contaminated instruments should be placed in the “Blood Contaminated Instruments Only” Sharps Container.

- Out of concern for safety and to prevent contamination of exam equipment, **any bleeding must be stopped prior to continuing the exam.**
- No additional time will be given during the exam for injuries that occur as a result of candidate error.
- In the event a medical emergency should occur during the exam, candidates should remain calm and a staff member will be there to assist and assess the situation.
- The process for injuries also applies if it occurs in the orientation room.

## RESTROOM/DRINKING FOUNTAIN USE

It is advisable for candidates to use the restroom before the examination begins. No time allowance is given for restroom use during the examination sessions. In the event a candidate needs to use the restroom during the exam, they should inform the proctor who will escort them to the restroom. The same principles for restroom use apply to using the water fountain.

## POST EXAMINATION INFORMATION

### CANDIDATE INCIDENT REPORTS & SURVEYS

At the conclusion of the examination, all candidates will sit at a workstation to the left of their exam room. There will be a computer at the workstation that will be used by candidates to submit an incident report.

- Candidates must log in using their OE tracker number and password (created by the candidate and used to register for the exam or view scores on the NBEO website).
- After logging in, candidates must select whether they have an incident report.
- Candidates are encouraged to think through their exam and use this opportunity to document any irregularity that may have occurred which a candidate feels may have negatively impacted their performance. Incident reports **will not be accepted** from candidates once they have left the exam hallway.
- Candidates can document any concerns involving the equipment, proctors, or the candidate's performance.

Once all incident reports have been submitted, they will be reviewed by staff. **Staff may review videos and/or interview the proctor for more information regarding your incident report.** Additionally, staff will inspect any reported equipment malfunction.

- During the incident reports review, since videos are available to view any issues, staff will only discuss incidents with candidates if clarification or further information is needed. If staff discusses an incident report with a candidate in the exam room, the candidate should assume the discussion is being recorded.
- Once all incident reports have been reviewed and it is determined there are no administrative issues or all issues have been resolved, staff will dismiss candidates from the exam hall.

### CANDIDATE DISMISSAL

- Once dismissed from the exam hall. Candidates will return to the lobby where staff will assist in beginning the CBT portion of the section.
- Candidates must not leave the test center until dismissed nor re-enter the test center after dismissal.

### RETEST POLICY

NBEO retest policy dictates that repeat tests are provided only due to administrative irregularities (e.g., equipment failure, loss of electrical power) which negatively affected the candidate's performance.

## ADDITIONAL EXAM INFORMATION

### CANDIDATE-TO-CANDIDATE INTERACTION

Candidates may only engage in conversation with each other during the check-in and orientation time. **Once candidates are escorted to the exam hallway, candidates may NOT communicate with any other candidate until they complete their exam and exit the NCCTO.**

- “Communication” includes conversation, verbal statements, non-verbal cues/expressions (e.g., thumbs up/down, shaking head, high-fives), and passing notes.
- Violation of this policy may be considered Improper Conduct under the Candidate Agreement.

### EXAM CONDUCT

All exams administered at the NCCTO are recorded (audio and video). All candidates sign and agree to the Candidate Agreement and Ethics Policy when registering for the examination. Copies of the Candidate Agreement and Ethics Policy are also available on the NBEO website.

### SCORING PRACTICES

NBEO uses quantitative and qualitative data analysis to evaluate examination uniformity and fairness. Candidates who achieve scores above the overall cut-off requirement receive a passing score. A LSPE score below the cut-off requirement will result in a failing score. Additional information regarding scoring practices, score breakdowns and reports is available online.

## LSPE SKILLS OVERVIEW

The LSPE clinical skills portion is comprised of the following:

#### Laser Section

SLT  
Peripheral Iridotomy  
YAG Capsulotomy

#### Surgical Section

Suturing  
Chalazion Excision

### LASER SECTION

LSPE skills do not utilize live patients. Models will be provided for each skill. Any attempt to perform a skill on the proctor present in the exam room will result in an automatic STOP. You may address the proctor when discussing pre-operative and post-operative information.

**Candidates must perform the skills in order: SLT, PI, YAG Capsulotomy.** Candidates will review pre-operative information for SLT based on a provided Case History. Pre-operative notes will be provided for PI and YAG Capsulotomy once the candidate indicates they are ready for that skill. Samples are included on the evaluation form section of the LSPE webpage. Candidates may use the phone number listed at the top of the note for the emergency contact information expressed to the patient. Candidates may review the pre-op note for the YAG Capsulotomy skill while the proctor is changing out the model heads.

Candidates are not required to clean lenses for any laser procedures. They will be cleaned prior to the candidate entering the examination room. Each lens should be prepared with Gen Teal® gel prior to use. Additionally, the candidate is not required to disinfect the slit lamp or align the patient as the model patient will already be placed in the slit lamp when the candidate enters the room.

The laser should remain in the appropriate setting until ready to perform the actual procedure. **Failure to adhere to this safety protocol will result in an automatic STOP.** The proctors will need to change model patients/eyes in between the LPI and YAG Capsulotomy skills. Please ensure that the laser is “cold” prior to this transition and do not touch the laser during this transition. Failure to provide a safe environment for the proctor will result in an automatic STOP.

Magnification of 16X (or higher) is recommended for optimal viewing by the video recording equipment on all laser procedures. **Please leave the room lights on for all skills to aid in laser display video capture.**

During PI, all four iris crypts of the model patient should be visible. If the eye is not in an appropriate position to view, please notify the proctor.

For YAG cap, the capsulotomy should be centered in the pupil.

Functional notes pertaining to the model eyes:

- you will see a burn pattern while performing SLT
- there will not be pigment plume observed on PI
- YAG cap may take more energy than on a real patient

## IEWS

- As part of the exam process, the Quantel Optimis™ Fusion is equipped with a camera that will obtain live images as viewed by the candidate. It is the candidate's responsibility to maintain views through the Quantel Optimis Fusion.
- When examining any ocular structure, the views cannot be "fleeting."

### Obtaining and Confirming Views:

- Candidates are responsible for ensuring the proctor has a view on the monitor.
- Candidates may ask at any point if there is a view. They will be given a response of either "I have a view" or "I do not have a view" from the proctor.
- The proctor will confirm the presence of a view **when asked** and change the model heads with the assistance of another staff member.
- Proctors will only comment on views while they are being performed. In the event a candidate asks at the end of a skill if the proctor had views during the skill, they will be told "I can only comment on a view while it is being performed."
- It should be noted that in the event a proctor confirms the presence of a view, it only means that something is visible on the monitor.
- Confirmation of a view does **not** indicate clarity or quality of the view, whether the view meets the minimum criteria, whether the view is of the correct angle/structure, or whether the view is a "good view."
- In the event a proctor says they do not have a view, candidates are encouraged to troubleshoot and ensure nothing is obstructing the view through the left ocular of the laser.
- Candidates are **not allowed** to view the monitors at any time. Monitors are calibrated and positioned in a certain manner for optimal views by the proctor. The proctor has been trained in how to view the monitors.

### Candidate Concerns

- Candidates who are amblyopic or monocular are advised to use the better eye for observation through the **left ocular** of the laser.
- This may involve candidates altering their position at the slit lamp so that they are able to look through the left ocular using their right eye.
- Candidates are encouraged to make a simple statement such as "I will be using my right eye to look through the left ocular" so the proctor is aware the candidate is intentionally choosing to utilize the equipment in this manner.
- If a Candidate needs to request test accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, they should submit a Request for Test Accommodations using the process found in the NBEO Test Accommodations Policy at [https://www.optometry.org/policies/test\\_accommodations](https://www.optometry.org/policies/test_accommodations).

## SURGICAL SECTION

Separate models will be utilized for suturing and chalazion excision. These models are considered aseptic. A sterile ophthalmic drape is provided for the suturing skill. Please treat these models as if they are a real patient. For video recording purposes, candidates will be required to sit during these skills. A Case History will be provided for Suturing and a Pre-operative note will be provided for Chalazion Excision. Samples are included in the evaluation form section of the LSPE webpage.

All necessary instrumentation for Suturing will be on a single tray (ignore alphabetical labels on the instruments). All necessary instrumentation for the Chalazion Excision procedure will be on a separate tray, to include a surgical marker. Please inform the proctor in the room when you have completed the Suturing skill and are ready to move on to Chalazion Excision. They will provide you with your next set of trays. Candidates are not required to clean any of these instruments. However, attention should be paid to maintaining aseptic technique and follow Universal Precautions.

An adnexal laceration will be present on the suturing model. Candidates are not allowed to create their own laceration for this skill. Any attempt to create a laceration will result in an automatic STOP. When you are ready to put on sterile gloves, you must let the proctor know. They will ask what size you would like, open them for you, and place them on the tray. The model will be placed on the base of the microscope. For video recording purposes, the model must remain on the base throughout the entire skill. Candidate should remove the sutures.

For the Chalazion Excision procedure, Candidates will find two separate models on a tray; an eyelid model with a chalazion and a chalazion model with a pre-loaded clamp. Candidates must demonstrate an injection and clamping on the eyelid model and use the chalazion model for the actual excision and clamp removal. While sterile fields are expected in practice, this exam only evaluates a sterile field in the suturing skill; still aseptic technique must be maintained in the chalazion skill.

### **Test Accommodations**

- If a Candidate needs to request test accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, they should submit a Request for Test Accommodations using the process found in the NBEO Test Accommodations Policy at [https://www.optometry.org/policies/test\\_accommodations](https://www.optometry.org/policies/test_accommodations).

Again, it is important to ensure safety while performing all skills. **Candidates should not attempt to perform the SLT, Peripheral Iridotomy, YAG Capsulotomy, Suturing, or Chalazion Excision Procedures on the proctor. Attempting to do so will result in an automatic STOP.**

***Everyone involved in the preparation of these examinations extends their collective best wishes for your success.***

# LASER SECTION OF LSPE CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS

August 2024-May 2025

*(also posted on the exam room computer)*

You will have 3 minutes of observation time followed by **40 minutes** to complete skills 1-3.

The laser skills **must** be performed in order.

## **SKILL 1: SLT**

You are to properly perform SLT on a model patient using an ocular model. The model patient will already be positioned and in alignment prior to you beginning the skill. Based on a provided Case History, you should dictate a Pre-operative note in the same manner as you would enter it into a patient record. You should ensure that the laser is in stand-by mode until the proctor is in a safe position and adorning safety eye protection. You must state your findings to the proctor in the same manner as you would enter them into a patient record.

## **SKILL 2: PERIPHERAL IRIDOTOMY**

You are to properly perform YAG Peripheral Iridotomy on the same model patient used for Skill 1-SLT. The fellow eye of this model patient will contain the LPI ocular model. The model patient will already be positioned and in alignment prior to you beginning the skill. You should ensure that the laser is in stand-by mode until the proctor is in a safe position and adorning safety eye protection. You must state your findings to the proctor in the same manner as you would enter them into a patient record.

## **SKILL 3: YAG CAPSULOTOMY**

You are to properly perform YAG Capsulotomy on a model patient using an ocular model as prescribed by the provided Pre-operative note. The proctor will need to change ocular models after completion of Skill 2, Peripheral Iridotomy. Please ensure that the laser is “cold” while the proctor is changing the model. The model patient will be positioned and aligned in the slit lamp by the proctor. The proctor will indicate when the model patient is in place. You should ensure that the laser is in stand-by mode until the proctor is in a safe position and adorning safety eye protection. You must state your findings to the proctor in the same manner as you would enter them into a patient record.

**Candidates are encouraged to review the LSPE Evaluation Form for detailed information regarding the items required to be completed during the examination.**

# SURGICAL SECTION OF LSPE CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS

August 2024-May 2025

*(also posted on the exam room computer)*

You will have 3 minutes of observation time followed by **30 minutes** to complete skills 1 & 2.

The surgical skills must be performed in order.

## **SKILL 1: SUTURING**

You are to properly perform interrupted suturing of an adnexal laceration on the model provided. The laceration will be pre-made prior to you entering the examination room (i.e., you should not create your own laceration). You should treat the model as if it is a real patient. You should dictate a Pre-operative note in the same manner as would be entered into a patient record. Discard sutures in the Sharps Container. You must state your findings to the proctor in the same manner as you would enter them into a patient record.

## **SKILL 2: CHALAZION EXCISION**

You are to properly perform chalazion excision on the models provided. You should demonstrate an injection and clamping on the eyelid/suturing model then move to the chalazion model for the actual excision. You should treat the model as if it is a real patient. You must state your findings to the proctor in the same manner as you would enter them into a patient record.

**Candidates are encouraged to review the LSPE Evaluation Form for detailed information regarding the items required to be completed during the examination.**