

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY
SECTION ON CORNEA, CONTACT LENSES AND REFRACTIVE TECHNOLOGIES
Proposed Clinical Diplomate Candidate Modernization

July 6, 2023

TASK FORCE CHARGE: To evaluate the current process and requirements to become a CCLRT Diplomate. To consider alternative pathways specifically regarding the Case Report Requirements. The goal is to acknowledge dedication and expertise in Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technology with consideration to the more current methods of communication and delivery of information. It is also to acknowledge those who have demonstrated competency through their experience and continue to strive for excellence in these areas. Further, it provides value to the candidate and contributes to the profession.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

The following changes take into consideration the original recommendations of the Task Force as well as points raised by the Leadership Team during our discussion at the Mid-Year Planning meeting.

Moving forward - the Case Report Obligations shall be referred to as “Applied Clinical Knowledge and Demonstration of Expertise”

Every Candidate shall have to meet **7 criteria** with the goal of demonstrating applied clinical understanding and expertise in Cornea, Contact Lenses and/or Refractive Technologies by way of Patient Case Reports and other Bodies of Work that demonstrate contributions to the profession.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Applied Clinical Knowledge Committee was previously known as the Case Report Committee.

Consideration will be given to applicants pursuing the Clinical Diplomate Award who are no longer seeing patients or do not have files that might satisfy a specific case report requirement. In lieu of a case report, a topic may be assigned relating to that specific requirement.

- Prior approval by the Committee is required

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MODERNIZATION TASK FORCE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
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APPLIED CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE previously known as CASE REPORT CATEGORY
THE CANDIDATE CAN SELECT THEIR METHODS OF SUBMISSION
FROM THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

CATEGORY 1: APPLIED CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS (COMPLETE 5)

Evidentiary works that satisfy the clinical knowledge in defined areas of patient care that have been determined as essential : see the CCLRT Applied Clinical Knowledge Focus Areas chart (attached).

- There are several methods to achieve the 5 requirements, and these are listed below.
- The Candidate **MUST** follow the established standards and select topics from the Applied Clinical Knowledge Focus Areas chart (see attached)

Ways to achieve:

Written Case Report Format

- **Minimum 3 Traditional Case reports** must be in written format for all candidates
- 12-point font, double spaced, 12 (min) – 20 (max) pages (3,000 – 5,000 words).
- A Case Report example that demonstrates guidelines / standard will be developed and posted on Section website.

Published Case Report/Series in a Peer-Reviewed Journal

- **Maximum 2 Published works**, first authorship, published in either :
 - Clinical Insights in Eye Care (AAO publication)
 - Other Peer Reviewed Journal
- Guidelines as outlined for the publication must be followed.

Oral Case Report Format

- **Maximum 1 case report** can be presented in an oral format. This is an option for the last required case report if advanced competency has been demonstrated in previous reports.
- The Diplomate Award Chair, Applied Clinical Knowledge Chair and Candidate's Mentor shall determine if the candidate is eligible for this option.
- Format would be live/virtual/recorded presentation and will be followed by questions from the case report reviewer panel.
- Guidelines / standard will follow similar criteria as established for the written Case Report rubric (Note – an Oral Case Report rubric needs to be developed).
- Oral Case Report process should be developed in such a manner as to prepare the candidate for the Oral Examination portion of the Diplomate process.
- The first opportunity for this option will be in 2024.

CATEGORY 2: DEMONSTRATION OF EXPERTISE IN THE CCLRT FIELD (COMPLETE 2)

Candidate needs to **complete any TWO additional** items to demonstrate clinical knowledge / expertise in the CCLRT field from the below list of options.

- Items **MUST** follow the established standards and be selected based on topics from the Applied Clinical Knowledge Focus Areas chart (see attached) unless noted otherwise.
 - For example: a publication on keratoconus would qualify as: Lens fitting: Keratoconus or Pellucid: GP/Scleral/Specialty Soft or Hybrid lenses.

Ways to Achieve:

- Additional Written Case Report(s) as described in Category 1
- Additional Published Case Report in AAO Clinical Insights in Eye Care as described in Category 1
- Peer Reviewed Journal Article(s)
 - Publication in a peer-reviewed indexed journal
 - Indexed journals must appear in a searchable database (MedLine, PubMed).
 - The candidate must be the first or corresponding author.
 - The publication must be approved by Applied Clinical Knowledge Committee (previously known as the Case Report Committee).
- Thesis for which a PhD, Master of Science or Public Health was awarded
- Textbook chapter(s) - (must be first author)

- Evidence based non-peer reviewed article(s)* - (must be first author)
- NIH grant(s) or other grant(s)* - (must be first investigator)
- Patent(s) in area of Cornea, Contact Lens or Refractive Technologies* - (must be first author)

**These items must include a supporting statement that describes which Applied Clinical Knowledge Category the item fulfills, as well as why the activity qualifies the candidate for the Diplomate credential. The statement should be 12-point font, double spaced, 1 – 2 pages (250 – 500 words).*

- Elected or Appointed High level Leadership position in a Cornea, Contact Lens or Refractive Technology Professional and Recognized Organization or Association. **
 - cannot have been used previously for Fellowship qualification.
 - maximum of 1 position allowed
 - must be pre-approved by the Diplomate Award Chair and Applied Clinical Knowledge Chair

***This item does not need to fulfill an Applied Clinical Knowledge Category, however, should include a supporting statement that describes why the activity qualifies the candidate for the Diplomate credential. The statement should be 12-point font, double spaced, 1 – 2 pages (250 – 500 words).*