



## Warfighter Refractive Eye Surgery Program

Evans Army Community Hospital

Fort Carson, CO 80913

(719) 526-7450

Monday - Friday 0730-1630

(Closed for training on the second Thursday of each month from 0700-1300)



### Application Checklist

At least 21 years of age on the date of surgery

At least 6 months remaining on active duty status from the date of surgery

At least 3 months remaining at Fort Carson from the date of surgery

No combat deployment within 3 months of the date of surgery for PRK,  
1 month for LASIK/SMILE/ICL

No adverse personnel actions (e.g. flag, UCMJ) pending

No Medical Evaluation Board pending

Females must not be pregnant or nursing 6 months before the date of surgery

Must be wearing glasses and/or contact lenses full-time; surgery is *not* authorized for Soldiers who only need corrective lenses part-time

No soft contact lens (the most common type) wear for 7 days prior to the pre-surgical evaluation (required) and 3 days prior to surgery (recommended).

No hard contact lens wear for 30 days prior to the pre-surgical evaluation and 7 days prior to surgery. Longer may be needed which will be determined at evaluation.

Complete the DHA 237 Refractive Eye Surgery Application (section 3 optometry/ ophthalmology referral may be omitted if stationed in the Colorado Springs, CO area; MUST BE signed, stamped, and dated < 6 months from the anticipated surgery date)

Submit completed application to WRESP EACH group mail box (encryption recommended):  
[usarmy.carson.medcom-each.mbx.wresp@health.mil](mailto:usarmy.carson.medcom-each.mbx.wresp@health.mil)

For more information on the Army's Warfighter Refractive Eye Surgery Program (WRESP), please refer to the OTSG/MEDCOM Policy Memo 20-039, dated 17 AUG 2020.

# EVANS ARMY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

## Warfighter Refractive Eye Surgery Program Clinical Guidelines

**NOTE:** Each surgery is individually planned and therefore, regardless of criteria, some patients may not be offered certain procedures. Please consult before referral for patients that do not meet the below guidelines.

### 1. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- **AGE:** 21+
- **STATUS:** Active Duty or Activated Reservist (on active orders) with following time remaining on active duty *after* surgery date:
  - ARMY/USAF/USSF: ≥ 6 months
  - NAVY/MARINES: ≥ 12 months
  - RESERVISTS: Service standards
- **DEPLOYMENTS:** None scheduled within 1 month (LASIK) or 3 months (PRK) of surgery date
- **COMMANDER'S AUTHORIZATION:** Valid 6 months
- **FLIGHT:** No flying for 6 weeks after surgery
- **SMALLPOX IMMUNIZATION:** Cannot receive within 3 weeks prior to and up to 4 months after LASER surgery
- **POST-OP:** No PCS within 3 months of surgery date

### 2. CONTACT LENS WEARERS

- Contacts *must* be out 7 days (soft lenses) and 30+ days (hard) prior to pre-operative exam and for 3 days (soft; recommended) and 7 days (hard; required) prior to surgery. This can greatly affect treatment accuracy!

### 3. SYSTEMIC CONDITIONS THAT MAY DQ

- Uncontrolled/Unstable Autoimmune Diseases; Examples listed by main target organ:
  - Blood: Autoimmune hemolytic anemia; Autoimmune thrombocytopenia; Pernicious anemia
  - Blood Vessels: Anti-phospholipid syndrome; Vasculitis, e.g. Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's); Behçet's disease; Temporal arteritis
  - Endocrine Glands: Type 1 or immune-mediated diabetes
  - Gastrointestinal System: Crohn's Disease; Ulcerative Colitis; Autoimmune hepatitis
  - Nervous System: Multiple Sclerosis; Myasthenia Gravis; Autoimmune neuropathies; Guillain-Barré; Primary biliary cholangitis (cirrhosis)
- Immunodeficiency Diseases (AIDS/HIV)
- Pregnancy / Breastfeeding – must be 6 months post-partum; no nursing for 6 months
- Diabetes – if uncontrolled
- Collagen Vascular Diseases – Lupus, Scleroderma, RA, Marfan, Ehlers-Danlos, Osteogenesis Imperfecta

### 4. OCULAR CONDITIONS THAT MAY DQ (\*if uncontrolled)

- History of Herpetic Eye Disease
- Keratoconus, incl. Forme Fruste
- Pellucid Marginal Degeneration
- Ocular Rosacea\*
- Severe Dry Eye\*
- Glaucoma\*

### 5. MEDICATIONS THAT MAY DQ (\*prior to surgery)

- Accutane (scarring, corneal melting) – no use for 3 months\*
- Amiodarone/antiarrhythmic medication – no use for 3 months\*
- TB meds, e.g. isoniazid – no use for 1 month\*
- Any immunosuppressive drug
- Migraine Meds (Triptans, e.g. Imitrex/Sumatriptan/Maxalt) – no use for 1 month\*

6. REFRACTIVE / CORNEAL CRITERIA (for referring providers)

- **DVAsc:**  $\geq 20/30$  (monocular, *not* OU)
- **Refraction:**
  - Hyperopia:  $\leq +6.00D$  SE
  - Myopia:  $-0.50D$  to  $-12.00D$  SE (PRK/LASIK)  
 $-3.00D$  to  $-20.00D$  SE (ICL)
  - Cylinder:  $\leq 6.00D$  (PRK/LASIK)  
 $\leq 4.00D$  (ICL)
  - For patients that meet ICL requirements, can combine with CRS to go higher
  - Topography-Guided
    - $\leq -9.00D$  sph /  $\leq -8.00$  sph  $-3.00$  cyl
- **Refractive Stability:**
  - Must have MRx/lensometry  $> 1$  year old with no more than  $0.50D$  shift in sphere *or* cylinder (i.e. *not* SE)
  - If not stable, can bring back for repeat MRx and CRx after 3 months
  - Difference in Wet vs Dry MR  $\leq 0.75D$
  - CRx is good for *6 months*
  - Cases that fall outside these requirements can be considered on an individual basis; consult with the surgical team. Examples include:
    - Increased plus (hyperope previously under-plussed or myope over-minused)
    - Change of  $0.75D$  with good topography/pachs or high Rx (change is small percentage of overall Rx)
    - Meets stability requirements compared to older Rx
    - Non-FTW patients with anisometropia and/or latent hyperopia can be considered on a case-by-case basis and must wear glasses full-time for *minimum 1 month* before pre-op
- **Pachymetry:**  $\geq 450$  microns;  $\geq 300$  microns residual bed
- **K's:** Evaluated on a case-by-case basis
- **Percentage Thickness Alteration (PTA%):** Surgeon discretion, but generally  $\leq 40\%$

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