

New York's eye physicians are focused on the future of patient safety.



New York State Ophthalmological Society

What is an ophthalmologist?

An Ophthalmologist is a medical or osteopathic doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating diseases of the eye including medical, surgical and vision care management. Ophthalmologists (Eye MDs) are extensively trained to provide the full spectrum of eye care services, from prescribing glasses and contact lenses to the use of a wide range of medications to complex and delicate eye surgery. Many Eye MDs are also involved in scientific research into the causes and cures for eye diseases and vision problems.

In addition to four years of medical school and one year of internship, every Eye MD spends a minimum of three years in residency (hospital-based education) in ophthalmology and many go on to fellowship subspecialty training. During that time, building on their years in medical school, eye physicians diagnose or treat thousands of patients with eye diseases and sight threatening conditions. Each Eye MD receives special training in all aspects of eye care including prevention, diagnosis, medical and surgical treatment of ophthalmic conditions.

What is NYSOS?

The New York State Ophthalmological Society (NYSOS) is a non-profit organization whose member Ophthalmologists promote the preservation of vision, the prevention of blindness and the effective utilization of scientific knowledge and medical capabilities for the benefit of all of New York State residents.

We ask for your support of these legislative bills that promote patient safety:

Protecting Eye Surgery Patients- A.8717/S.4705

This bill sets the guidelines for shared patient management agreements between eye care providers with regard to who is responsible for the delivery of post-operative eye care.

Eye surgery is a delicate matter that must be performed by a physician and specialist, an Ophthalmologist. In order to ensure the well-being of the patient, it is imperative and consistent with national medical standards that operating surgeons are responsible for the post operative care of their patients. This standard is subscribed to by NYSOS, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons, the AMA, MSSNY and the American College of Surgeons. It is accepted practice that the Ophthalmologist should personally deliver the post operative care or, under rare and unusual circumstances, designate another person to do so that is acceptable to the patient. The fully informed consent of both the patient and the individual selected to provide post-operative care should be agreed upon prior to surgery, and economic reasons, particularly the anticipation of surgical referrals, can never be the basis for transfer of care.

To learn more about NYSOS, please visit our website: www.nysos.com