

TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
CHAPTER 16 OPTOMETRIC PRACTITIONERS
PART 18 IN-OFFICE MINOR SURGICAL PROCEDURES

16.16.18.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico Board of Optometry.
[16.16.18.1 NMAC - N, 03-22-2008; A, 07-06-2012]

16.16.18.2 SCOPE: Provisions of Part 18 of Chapter 16 applies to all New Mexico licensed optometric physicians practicing in New Mexico.
[16.16.18.2 NMAC - N, 03-22-2008]

16.16.18.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: The authority for Part 18 of Chapter 16 is the Optometry Act NMSA 1978 Section 61-2-2.A (3).
[16.16.18.3 NMAC - N, 03-22-2008]

16.16.18.4 DURATION: Permanent.
[16.16.18.4 NMAC - N, 03-22-2008]

16.16.18.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: March 22, 2008, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[16.16.18.5 NMAC - N, 03-22-2008]

16.16.18.6 OBJECTIVE: The objective of Part 18 of Chapter 16 is to convey which in-office minor surgical procedures New Mexico optometric physicians are authorized to perform.
[16.16.18.6 NMAC - N, 03-22-2008]

16.16.18.7 DEFINITIONS:

- A. "Board"** means the New Mexico board of optometry herein referred to as the board.
- B. "Optometric physician"** means an optometrist who administers pharmaceutical medications in the diagnosis, treatment and management of ocular diseases as provided in 16.16.7.11 NMAC.
[16.16.18.7 NMAC - N, 03-22-2008; A, 07-06-2012; A, 03-02-2016]

16.16.18.8 MINOR SURGICAL PROCEDURES: A New Mexico optometric physician can use surgery or injections to correct and relieve the following types of abnormalities of the human eye and its adnexa. The following types of in-office minor surgical procedures are allowed:

- A.** non-laser removal, destruction or drainage of superficial eyelid lesions and conjunctival cysts;
- B.** probing, dilation, irrigation or closure of the tear drainage structures or the eyelid; scalpel use is to be applied only for the purpose of use on the skin surrounding the eye;
- C.** removal of nonperforating foreign bodies from the cornea, conjunctiva and eyelid;
- D.** non-laser corneal debridement, culture, scrape or anterior puncture, not including removal of pterygium, corneal biopsy or removal of corneal neoplasias; and
- E.** removal of eyelashes.

[16.16.18.8 NMAC - N, 03-22-2008]

HISTORY of 16.16.18 NMAC: [RESERVED]