



## **Spring Council Meeting Council Advisory Recommendation (CAR) Hearing Report April 9, 2022**

### **22-01: Support of State Societies through Codequest**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO)

**PROBLEM STATEMENT:** New AAO online national virtual programming on CPT coding including the one-hour 2022 Ophthalmology Coding Update co-taught by Sue Vicchilli and the 3-hour 2022 Fundamentals in Ophthalmology Coding taught by Joy Woodke is competing with local state society presentations of CODEQUEST. At the same time, the change in AAO fee structure for CODEQUEST has increased the total costs to many state societies. These combined changes will financially damage many state societies.

DID THE ACADEMY'S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? NO

Yes	43%
No	54%
Abstain	3%

PRIORITY: MEDIUM-HIGH

Low	10%
Medium	39%
High	51%
Abstain	0%

#### **Comments from the CAR Hearing:**

- The California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons: Support basic concept of the CAR. For societies that don't hold their own Codequest, ask that the Academy not promote to them on aao.org, but rather let the societies do their own marketing about the Academy options.
- The revenue anticipated was not received. With membership down and budget issues, Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) depended on this revenue. PAO will have to consider a different approach for next year.
- Rather than use the Academy's Codequest, the Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons used a consulting agency. Forced to do this due to the cost, wish we didn't have to.
- Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology: Support the CAR. Also ask that if Codequest is part of a society meeting that we can distribute the recording to our members for at least a few months.

#### **BOT Referred to:**

Ravi D. Goel, MD – Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice  
Status Report – due for June 2022 Board of Trustees meeting

## 22-02: Improving Diversity Within the Ophthalmic Workforce

**SUBMITTED BY:** National Medical Association, Ophthalmology Section

**PROBLEM STATEMENT:** Racial and ethnic disparities in eye care utilization and vision outcomes in the US are pervasive and affect every field of ophthalmology. Census data from 2020 shows the US is more racially and ethnically diverse than ever before with underrepresented minorities (URM), defined as individuals who identify as Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, and Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, accounting for one-third of the U.S. population. At the same time, the specialty field of ophthalmology is lacking in workforce diversity, with only 6% of practicing ophthalmologists in academic settings being from URM backgrounds. Addressing solutions to improving workforce diversity, eliminating disparities in eye care access and delivery, and providing the highest quality of care to all Americans should be a priority for our specialty.

DID THE ACADEMY'S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes	84%
No	15%
Abstain	1%

PRIORITY: HIGH

Low	2%
Medium	13%
High	85%
Abstain	0%

### Comments from the CAR Hearing:

- On behalf of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology, we express our strong commitment to this issue.
- As President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology, it has been difficult to integrate this at the state level. Easier with young ophthalmologists and the residency programs, but not so much with the rest of the members. It would be helpful if the Academy would develop tools to educate our other members.
- On behalf of the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS,) I encourage all societies to create a DEI committee. NANOS did this two years ago and we now promote this on our main landing page. I also encourage societies to support the Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring (MOM) program.

### BOT Referred to:

Aaron M. Miller, MD, MBA - Secretary for Member Services  
Status Report - due for June 2022 Board of Trustees meeting

## 22-03: Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) Workforce Shortage

**SUBMITTED BY:** International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology

**PROBLEM STATEMENT:** Ophthalmologists worldwide report a workforce shortage and challenges in the recruitment, hiring, and retention of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP). In the United States and Canada, ophthalmologists anecdotally have reported technician shortages over the last several years. However, a critical issue is that there are no data or documented evidence in the ophthalmic profession to support the perceived workforce shortage, and there are no supporting hard data on the demographics or gaps on workforce shortages.

DID THE ACADEMY'S RESPONSE SUFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES STATED IN THE CAR? YES

Yes 73%

No 27%

Abstain 0%

PRIORITY: HIGH

Low 10%

Medium 24%

High 66%

Abstain 0%

### Comments from the CAR Hearing:

-William H. Ehlers, MD for himself and as an Alternate Councilor to the Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians: Fully support the CAR. We've been discussing this issue for over 30 years. Would note that the subject of 'taking' technicians after they are fully trained is an issue, but not to the extent that most believe.

-On behalf of the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology, we were approached by our community college who is looking to create a program and partner with us to have internships available possibly across the state. We are allowing them to survey our membership about interest level, and they have been in contact with IJCAHPO. I would also suggest that if a task force is created, use this opportunity to look at DEI issues as well.

-On behalf of the American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus: Note that physician shortages also exist within many subspecialties, as discussed in the Subspecialty/Specialized Interest Section breakout meeting today. If a task force is formed, please address physician shortages as well.

### BOT Referred to:

Ravi D. Goel, MD - Senior Secretary for Ophthalmic Practice  
Status Report - due for June 2022 Board of Trustees meeting