

Verified Scope of Practice

Role	Orthoptist
Expertise	<p>Orthoptists play a vital role in securing beneficial outcomes for people with eye disease through their clinical expertise, patient engagement, support and evidence based approach to practice that is grounded in research.</p> <p>Areas of expertise include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diagnosis and orthoptic management of defects of binocular vision, ocular motility, and visual deficits related to neurological (stroke and brain injury) and systemic disease (diabetes) • in the presence of eye disease, diagnostic procedures including refraction, perimetry, ultrasonography, tomography and electrophysiology • orthoptic management of strabismus (turned eye) and amblyopia (non-disease related poor vision) • clinical monitoring of stable, chronic conditions such as glaucoma, diabetes and macular degeneration, and escalation to diagnostic services when indicated • quality patient education to achieve improved patient compliance with treatment and optimal outcomes • health promotion through vision screening across the age spectrum • minimising the functional impact of vision impairment and facilitating a high quality of life for individuals with low vision • broadly influencing Australian eye care by transferring orthoptic knowledge and skills to ophthalmic industry • research • ophthalmic practice and health service management.
Procedures	<p>Refer to Diagnostic Eye Services Scope of Practice</p> <p>Includes key procedures as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform refraction 2. Undertake A-scan sonography in relation to ocular structures only 3. Slit lamp examination 4. Retinal Imaging 5. Visual acuity 6. Visual fields <p>Conditional</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. B-scan – evidence of additional training and competency required 2. Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) imaging – evidence of additional training and competency required 3. Prescribe glasses if registered with the Australian Orthoptic Board 4. Schedule 4 medicines if registered with the Australian Orthoptic Board (details below)
In scope	Procedures detailed in Diagnostic Eye Services Scope of Practice

Out of scope	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpretation of results unless evidence of relevant training 2. Intravitreal injection 3. B-scan unless additional competency demonstrated 4. Prescribe glasses unless registered with the Australian Orthoptic Board 5. Use Schedule 4 medicines unless registered with the Australian Orthoptic Board
Scheduled medicines	Schedule 4 medicines instil or use with written medical officer request for a specific patient and medical officer available and if registered with the Australian Orthoptic Board
Qualifications	<p>Recognised university undergraduate or post graduate orthoptic degree or its equivalent.</p> <p>Bachelor of Orthoptic & Ophthalmic Sciences Degree, or equivalent.</p>
Registration	<p>Orthoptic Board of Australia</p> <p>Orthoptic Association of Australia</p>

References

Orthoptics Australia website

Sonography Guild of Australia

Relevant legislation None

Relevant regulations *External*

Orthoptist Scope of Practice, Orthoptics Australia

Eye and Ear Hospital

None

Reviewers

Catherine Mancuso	Director, Diagnostic Eye Services	6 December 2018
Andrea Johannessen	Research Manager	26 October 2018

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Approved by

Approving entity	Date	Version
Eye and Ear Researcher Credentialing Committee	Out of session 20 February 2019	1 dated 20 February 2019