



OSA JOB TASK ANALYSIS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/KEY FINDINGS

Every five years, the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Professional in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO) conducts an industry-wide survey of the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) of job incumbents known as a Job Task Analysis (JTA). The purpose of conducting the JTA is to update the existing certification content to ensure that the certification exams are representative of the real-life KSAs that current job incumbents are expected to have. Beginning in 2022, a JTA was developed and administered to current Ophthalmic Surgical Assistant (OSA) certification holders and employing ophthalmologists. The survey administration was completed in 2023. The JTA results led to the recommendations for a future OSA certification exam version. The purpose of this report is to detail the development, implementation, and analysis of the JTA.

The Certification Committee of eight members supervised the study and made the decisions affecting the content for evaluation, including the selection of tasks in the detailed content outline and the questions to be examined. Committee members represented different settings across Canada and the United States. This survey-based study was conducted in phases including survey development, distribution, and response analysis. The Committee developed task statements, items, and demographic populations to collect background information about respondents. IJCAHPO developed the sampling plans for survey distribution and the appropriate analysis for the response data with the Committee's approval.

An invitation asking recipients to participate in the online survey was distributed by email to a total population of 558 OSA credential holders. A volunteer sample of 225 gave complete responses, which yielded a 40% response rating. The survey consisted of 118 task statements and 7 demographic questions. Based on the demographic analysis, it was determined that the sample was a sufficient representation of the OSA population of job incumbents. Flags were employed on data survey results to determine whether tasks should be removed from specific domains. The importance rating responses were also presented in rank-order to help in making recommendations to the Certification Committee. Study results were presented to the Certification Committee as a set of recommendations and assembling forms for the examination in August of 2023.

The following outcomes were determined:

- A total of 8 domains was reduced to 7 domains by merging Surgical Complications into the sub-domain of Surgical Procedures.
- A total of 118 tasks was reduced to 117 tasks by removing the task statement "Assist in the collection of specimens and biopsies".
- The number of questions in Surgical Procedures was reduced by 9 and Ophthalmic Pharmacology was reduced by 2.
- The number of questions in Ophthalmic Anesthesia was increased by 3, Minor Surgery was increased by 3, and Patient Preparation was increased by 5.

Number of Included Statements

118

of 118 (100%) **task/knowledge statements** from the job task analysis survey were included by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) at the test specifications meeting. One task statement was eliminated by the SMEs at the test specifications meeting.

Task/Knowledge Statement Mean Importance Survey Ratings

100%

- The task/knowledge statements resulted in a mean **importance** rating of at least 3.00 ("moderately important") out of 4.00 ("very important") for 100% of the tasks

Test Specifications

The Certification Committee met and determined to accept or revise the JTA outcomes. The primary JTA outcomes and recommended new test specifications are summarized below.

Domain	No. of Task/Knowledge Statements	No. of Examination Items	Percent of Examination Items
Instruments	8	20	25%
Aseptic Technique	12	16	20%
Patient Preparation	3	8	10%
Minor Surgery	13	7	8%
Ophthalmic Anesthesia	4	6	8%
Ophthalmic Pharmacology	15	6	8%
Surgical Procedures	62	17	21%
7	117	80	100%