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American Society of Retina Specialists and Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology Announce Joint Initiative for CMS Rule Compliance with Certified Personnel

St. Paul, Minn. - (March 26, 2015) - ASRS and JCAHPO® have formed an alliance to offer ASRS members JCAHPO's online Ophthalmic Scribe Certification (OSC®) at a reduced application fee for their scribe staff. This new alliance will positively impact the cost of ASRS members' compliance with the CMS Rule on CPOE data entry for the purpose of attesting to EHR Meaningful Use.

In addition to recognizing JCAHPO's certification of Ophthalmic Assistants, Technicians and Medical Technologists, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recently included certified ophthalmic scribes to enter electronic medication, laboratory, or radiology orders into electronic health record systems. JCAHPO recently released its new Ophthalmic Scribe Certification (OSC®) on its EyeCareCE web site for online education, training and assessment, www.eyecarece.org.

"ASRS is a JCAHPO Commission member, and this is one additional benefit that we are bringing to our membership by working with them," stated ASRS President, Tarek S. Hassan, MD. "ASRS and JCAHPO have an excellent collaborative relationship in training our clinical staff through continuing education programs."

The new OSC certification meets the CMS Rule with its 125-item Ophthalmic Scribe Certification examination, designed to test the knowledge of creating and maintaining patient medical records and orders under the supervision of an ophthalmologist. The open-book exam content covers History Taking, Ophthalmic Patient Services and Education, Ophthalmic Terminology, Medical Ethics and Legal Issues and Medical Notes/Records.

Karl Golnik, MD, JCAHPO President, says, "We are pleased that ASRS and JCAHPO have worked together on the OSC certification initiative to ensure that our eye care team provides quality care and that ASRS members comply with the CMS Rule. JCAHPO's Ophthalmic Scribe Certification is an accessible and affordable examination that not only meets CMS compliance, but also provides the ophthalmic medical professional with the opportunity to advance their careers."

Ophthalmic Scribes who are employed by an ASRS member can make application for the online OSC examination at low affordable rate of \$20 if they are already JCAHPO certified ophthalmic

assistants and \$40 for non-certified candidates. Upon successful completion, scribes are certified for three years.

JCAHPO and ASRS also wish to remind its members that CMS clarified that physicians must maintain a comparison document of responsibilities that demonstrates that certified ophthalmic scribes and certified medical scribes perform the same tasks, which could prevent physicians from failing audits.

For more information, contact JCAHPO at 1-800-284-3937 or www.jcahpo.org. Or, to register for the ophthalmic scribe certification examination, go to www.eyecarece.org.

[About JCAHPO®]

The Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (JCAHPO®) was established as a not-for-profit organization in 1969 to offer certification and continuing education opportunities to ophthalmic allied health personnel. Since then, more than 25,000 people in the U.S., Canada, and around the world have earned JCAHPO® Certification. For more information, visit: www.jcahpo.org.

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