

## Occupational Medicine Program

### ***Patient guide to Medical clearance for Laser operators***

Effective January 21st, 2015, UW- Madison Laser Safety Committee has mandated that any UW student, faculty, or staff member requesting access to a 3B or 4 Lasers receive a Medical Clearance through UW Occupational Medicine Program (OM).

This policy is intended to protect the eye health of campus Laser Operators (LO) and to confirm that the individual and the university have met the medical requirements of ANSI Standard Z136.1-2014 governing the safe use of lasers. Direct and indirect exposure to 3B and 4 lasers have the potential to cause significant eye injury.

#### **What do Laser Operators need to do?**

- If you are new or have never had a medical clearance to work with laser go to <http://www.uhs.wisc.edu/> and log into your MyUHS account.
- Select the Messages tab and create a New message. Select the option for completing a questionnaire for the Occupational Medicine Clinic
- Complete the OM Laser Operator Questionnaire and click submit
- The Occupational Medicine team will review and contact you to schedule appointment.

#### **What happens at the appointment?**

- Occupational Medicine will conduct a baseline vision screening which includes near and far vision test, screening for macular degeneration using the Amsler Grid and color blindness charts.
- Please bring your current glasses or contacts and vision correction prescription if you did not provide on your questionnaire as your corrected and uncorrected vision will be tested.

#### **What happens after the appointment?**

- If your screening results are normal you will be cleared to work with lasers and no further action is needed. If your results are abnormal, the Occupational Medicine program may contact Davis-Duehr-Dean Healthcare Clinics to coordinate scheduling a "UW Laser exam" for you.
- The Occupational Medicine Clinic will send your laser medical clearance to safety coordinator at the Office of Radiation Safety (ORS).
- The ORS will maintain a record of all individuals completing the Medical Clearance for Laser 3b or 4 work.

A follow-up examination is only required in the case of an injury or if you would choose to have a follow-up exam upon conclusion of your Laser work.

### Additional Helpful Information – Safety Glasses

If safety glasses are required by your department as a condition of your work, please contact Wisconsin Vision directly at your preferred location – East side, Phone# 608-249-5100 or West side, Phone# 608-277-9393.

The Laser Operator (LO) must get a valid, current prescription from their personal optometrist at the time of their first appointment to place the order.

During the first appointment, an Optometric Technician will advise the LO on appropriate eyewear for their environment, offer eyewear choices, and place the order. Once the glasses have been produced (generally within 2 weeks) the LO will be contacted to make a follow-up appointment to fit the glasses and discuss relevant safety instructions. Charges for these safety glasses are the responsibility of the UW department sponsoring the Laser work.

The principal investigator, supervisor or safety coordinator can contact the UW Environmental Health and Safety- Radiation Safety (EHS-RS) group at 265-5000 for advice and/or assistance in procurement of other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Laser Safety trainings.