

How to Apply for DOD treatment (Aviation Program Management)

Step 1

Complete your personal information and review mandatory questions section on the application form – page 1 (click application icon below to download).

Step 2

Take USAF-RS Commander's Authorization to your unit commander for endorsement. The application will be considered valid for up to 6 months following the date of your commander's signature. (click commander's authorization icon below to download).

Step 3

Coordinate completion of the application (application page 2 – clinical examination and Orbscan/corneal topography) with your AF Eye Clinic and FSO. Be sure to enter the location of your preferred DOD Refractive Surgery Center on the application form.

Note for pilots and in-flight refuelers: If your refractive error is hyperopia (up to +3.00 Diopters), either eye, you must have a pre-surgical evaluation at the Aeromedical Consultation Service (ACS) and receive treatment at the USAF Refractive Surgery Center located at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

Step 4

Submit the completed application package to the Aviation Program Manager for Permission-to-Proceed authorization. The application package contents are listed below. The Aviation Program Manager will review the application and issue a letter approving or denying Permission-to-Proceed authorization. An approved Permission-to-Proceed authorization indicates your submitted package has met administrative/clinical screening criteria, and you may proceed to the next step of the process. The final treatment decision (to treat or not treat) is made by the treating refractive surgeon. The final treatment decision will be based on: presenting clinical findings, outcome expectations, most appropriate treatment procedure, and other issues that arise. If Permission-to-Proceed authorization has been denied, you are not authorized to proceed or seek refractive surgery treatment in any military or civilian center.

Email Completed Applications to:

Aviation Program Manager (APM)
USAFSAM/FECO

USAFSAMAircrewProgramManager@wpafb.af.mil

Comm: 937-938-2684/2676

DSN: 798-2684/2676

Complete Application Package includes (at minimum)

Completed by Member, FSO

Application (page 1 of 2)

Completed by Unit Commander, Readiness Official & Supervisor

Commander's Authorization Form

Completed by Eye Clinic/ FSO

Application (page 2 of 2)

Orbscan/ Corneal Topography - Color Copies

Managed Care Agreement

Completed by AF Optometrist/FSO (if applicable)

Administrative Monitoring Agreement

Step 5

If granted Permission-to-Proceed (Approved), contact the Refractive Surgery Center listed on your Permission-to-Proceed approval letter to schedule an appointment. Note: Permission-to-Proceed does not guarantee that refractive surgery will be accomplished. Final treatment decision will be made by the treating surgeon.

Step 6

Before your scheduled refractive surgery, contact your AF eye care provider and your FSO to inform them of your treatment schedule, coordinate your post-treatment follow-up appointments, and manage your duty status and return to flight waiver.

Step 7

Read the booklet "VISX Patient Information Booklet". (click "VISX Patient Information" icon below to download).

A typical time course of treatment (your time period may vary).

1. 6-weeks: An estimated time to allow between your commander's endorsement, the application processing (including your local clinical examination for application, the USAF-RS Registry review, various other miscellaneous administrative requirements) and receipt of Permission-to-Proceed authorization.

2. 2-4 weeks: Upon receipt of Permission-to-Proceed authorization, you may schedule treatment at the Refractive Surgery Center indicated on your application or as authorized by the Permission-to-Proceed authorization letter.

Note for pilots and in-flight refuelers: if your refractive error is hyperopic (up to +3.00 Diopters either eye), you must have a pre-surgical evaluation at the ACS and receive treatment at the USAF Refractive Surgery Center located at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, under unit funded TDY orders (unless local).

3. 10-14 days: TDY for treatment to include: pre-treatment clinical evaluation, determination of the most appropriate RS procedure and final treatment decision, and initial recovery period. This will vary depending on the RS procedure performed and the location of the treatment facility. NOTE: You must be on TDY orders. Use of leave status for refractive surgery treatment at a DOD center is not authorized.

4. You will be Not-Deployable (not World-Wide-Qualified – WWQ) for at least 1 month following Intra-Stromal Ablation (ISA: LASIK, etc) treatment or up to 4 months following Advanced Surface Ablation (ASA: PRK, etc) treatment.

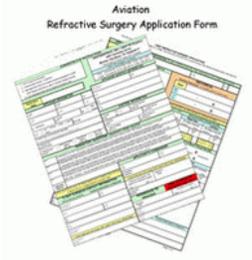
To return to WWQ, steroid eye drop medication must be discontinued, you must meet AF flight vision standards (with or without vision correction), and have been granted a MAJCOM waiver. Steroid eye drops are typically used during your initial refractive surgery recovery approximately (recovery is about 1 month for ISA, four months for ASA treatment). The treating refractive surgeon, in coordination with your local eye care provider, will determine the appropriate time course of your steroid therapy. Regardless of when steroid eye drops have been discontinued, you are not authorized to return to WWQ status for at least 1 month. (see waiver guide online at:

<http://airforcemedicine.afms.mil/waiverguide>).

Important Points:

1. You must have at least 6 months of AD medical benefits eligibility remaining following RS treatment.
2. You may not undergo Refractive Surgery until you have received Permission-to-Proceed authorization. Upon receipt of your Permission-to-Proceed authorization, you must coordinate and undergo treatment within six (6) months of the date your commander signed the commander's authorization. This date is found on the commander's authorization form and on the Permission-to-Proceed letter.
3. You must be on Unit-funded or Permissive TDY status for refractive surgery treatment. Leave status is not authorized.

Click on icons below to download forms or Information booklet



USAF-RS Commander's Authorization



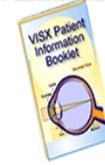
USAF-RS Managed Care Agreement



Refractive Surgery Checklist for USAF Personnel



VISX Patient Information



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