

How to Apply for DOD treatment (Warfighter Program Management)

Step 1

Complete your personal information and review mandatory questions section on the application form – application 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. Be sure to enter the location of your preferred DOD Refractive Surgery Center on the application form.

Step 4

Submit the completed application package to the Warfighter Program Manager for Permission-to-Proceed authorization. (Note: if planned for treatment at an AF CRS treatment center, submit the completed application to that AF CRS treatment center.) The application package contents are listed below. The Warfighter Program Manager will review the application and issue a letter approving or denying Permission-to-Proceed authorization. An approved Permission-to-Proceed endorsement 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 their professional judgment to include: presenting clinical findings, outcome expectations, most appropriate treatment procedure, and other issues that arise. If an application has been denied "Permission to Proceed", you are not authorized to proceed or seek refractive surgery treatment in any military or civilian center.

Mailing Address for Completed Applications

Warfighter Program Manager
2200 Bergquist Drive, Suite 1
Attn: 59 SSS / SG02ER (WF Pkts)
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-9908
WHMC-CRS@lackland.af.mil

FAX: Commercial (210) 292-2813 / DSN 554-2813
Voice: Commercial (210) 292-3495 / DSN 554-3495

Complete Application Package includes (at minimum)

Completed by Member
Application (page 1 of 2)
Completed by Member's Unit Commander
Commander's Authorization
Completed by Eye Clinic/ FSO
Application (page 2 of 2)
Orbscan/ Corneal Topography - Color Copies
Managed Care Agreement

Step 5

If granted Permission-to-Proceed authorization (Approved), contact the Refractive Surgery Center listed on your Permission-to-Proceed 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 primary care manager to coordinate your post-

treatment follow-up appointments to manage your return-to-duty status

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 Warfighter Program Manager 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 letter.
3. 10-14 days: TDY for treatment to include: final clinical evaluation and determination to proceed with refractive surgery treatment, recommended refractive surgery procedure, and initial recovery period. This will vary depending on the refractive surgery procedure performed and the location of the treatment facility. NOTE: You must be on TDY orders (permissive TDY is authorized). Using 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 and you must meet AF vision standards (with or without vision correction.) Steroid eye drops are typically used during your initial refractive surgery recovery approximately (about 1 month for ISA, four months for ASA treatment). The treating refractive surgeon in conjunction with your local eye care provider will determine the appropriate time course of your steroid therapy. Regardless when steroid eye drops have been discontinued, you are not authorized to return to WWQ status for at least 1 month.

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. The commander's date of authorization 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.

USAF-RS Application

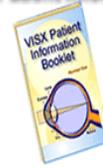
USAF-RS Commander's
Authorization

USAF-RS Managed
Care Agreement

Refractive Surgery
Checklist for USAF Personnel



VISX Patient Information



[Return to Public Access Home Page](#)

[Return to DotMil Access Home Page](#)