

EBAA ACCREDITATION: THE GOLD STANDARD IN EYE BANKING



EBAA accreditation is the only specialized, peer-reviewed certification program designed exclusively for eye banking. While FDA registration permits an eye bank to operate, EBAA accreditation proves it meets the gold standard of quality and performance that surgeons and patients deserve.

RIGOROUS, EXPERT-LED OVERSIGHT

Every accredited eye bank undergoes on-site inspection by a team composed of a practicing corneal surgeon and an experienced eye banking professional. Comprehensive inspections occur at least every three years. Here's what's evaluated:

- Complete review of donor eligibility procedures and records
- Direct observation of tissue recovery and processing techniques
- Equipment, supplies, and facility standards
- Quality assurance and documentation systems

BEYOND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

FDA regulations establish a minimum baseline focused on preventing communicable disease transmission. EBAA Medical Standards go further:

- **Specialized standards:** Accreditation standards are developed and endorsed by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and reflect the clinical community's consensus on best practices—not only for safety, but also for tissue quality.
- **Mandatory tissue evaluation:** Slit lamp and specular microscopy ensure clinical quality by identifying defects, low cell counts, and conditions that could cause transplant failure, even when no disease is present.
- **Continuous improvement:** Medical standards are regularly updated based on adverse event reporting and shared data from the entire network of accredited eye banks.



EBAA ACCREDITATION: WHY IT MATTERS



PATIENT SAFETY & CLINICAL OUTCOMES

EBAA-accredited eye banks deliver tissue that surgeons trust:

- **Rigorous standards:** Accreditation enforces strict operational procedures and thorough tissue evaluation, ensuring consistently high-quality corneas.
- **Proven safety:** These rigorous standards have contributed to reductions in post-surgical infections and complications, resulting in 2.4 million successful vision-restoring corneal transplants since 1961.
- **Optimized efficiency:** By evaluating each cornea before surgery, EBAA-accredited eye banks maximize tissue use, reduce waste, and ensure surgeons have the right tissue when they need it.

OPERATIONAL & ECONOMIC VALUE

For hospitals, surgeons, and healthcare systems, partnering with EBAA-accredited eye banks means:

- **Cost avoidance:** High-quality tissue and rigorous standards help hospitals avoid canceled procedures, repeated surgeries, and legal exposure from preventable adverse events.
- **Simplified compliance:** Standardized coding and labeling requirements ensure the tracking and traceability of tissue.
- **Economic impact:** By restoring sight, reducing healthcare costs, and enhancing patient independence, corneal transplants create an estimated \$8.24B in lifetime economic benefit each year.

INDUSTRY-WIDE ACCOUNTABILITY: THE OARRS NETWORK

EBAA accreditation enables a structured, networked system that helps the entire industry. This system, known as EBAA's Online Adverse Reaction Reporting System (OARRS), is a comprehensive, real-time surveillance network that makes every transplant safer:

- **Standardized data:** Accredited eye banks collect and report tissue quality, risk, and procedural data in a consistent, rigorous way.
- **Continuous monitoring:** Collected data is analyzed to identify trends, anticipate issues, and establish best practices in real-time.
- **Network-wide impact:** Insights can be quickly translated into consistent updates to standards and protocols across all accredited eye banks, benefiting surgeons and patients nationwide.

EBAA accreditation isn't just a mark of quality. It's a proven system that protects patients, supports surgeons, and strengthens the entire field of eye banking.

