

Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee

27 July 2017

Terms of reference

Background

The Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) is responsible under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009) (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory for ensuring that optometrists are suitably trained and that they practise in a safe, competent and ethical manner. Where the scope of practice of optometrists includes the administration or prescribing of diagnostic or therapeutic medicines for which they may have an endorsement and as authorised in State and Territory legislation, the Board has a role in ensuring optometrists have the necessary qualifications and practise in accordance with accepted professional standards.

Subject to the approval of the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council, the Board has the authority to endorse optometrists who have suitable training as qualified to prescribe scheduled medicines.

Scheduled medicines are substances that are included in a schedule to the current Poisons Standard under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Cth). The authorities to prescribe scheduled medicines are conferred under State and Territory drugs and poisons legislation and regulations.

The Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee (the Committee) assists the Board in formulating standards of practice for the optometry profession in its use of scheduled medicines.

Terms of reference

At the request of the Board, the Committee will advise the Board on the following matters with respect to the administration or prescribing of scheduled medicines by optometrists for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes:

- the scheduled medicines or classes of medicines that are suitable for optometrists to administer or prescribe
- any guidelines that might be required to support safe, competent and effective prescribing or administration practice by optometrists, and
- any other matters that the Board may refer from time to time.

Membership

The Committee is to comprise:

- a chairperson who is a Board member or optometrist nominated by the Board
- two optometrists who hold a scheduled medicine endorsement under the National Law or a law of a participating jurisdiction
- a pharmacist
- a medical practitioner who practises as an ophthalmologist
- a medical practitioner with relevant expertise
- an academic or educator in pharmacology, and
- an optometrist who is an academic or educator in optometry.

The Board may appoint additional members as required.

Term of office

The term of appointment to membership of the Committee is for a period of three years. The Board may remove a member from the committee when and as it sees fit.

Authority of the Advisory Committee

The Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee of the Board is established by the Optometry Board of Australia pursuant to Schedule 4, clause 11 of the National Law.

The Committee will report to the Board and carry out its functions at the request of the Board.

Review

These terms of reference apply from 27 July 2017. The Board will review these terms of reference at least annually.

Last reviewed: 27 July 2017