

Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

Summary

This standard sets out the qualifications and other requirements that must be met in order for a registered optometrist or applicant for registration as an optometrist to be granted an endorsement under section 94 of the National Law as qualified to prescribe or supply scheduled medicines.

Scope of application

An endorsement under section 94 indicates that the registered optometrist is qualified to prescribe or supply schedule 2, 3, or 4 medicines to patients for the treatment of conditions of the eye, from a list approved by the Board.

The endorsement relates to any Schedule 2, 3 or 4 medicine within the meaning of the current poisons standard under section 52D of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* (Cwth) that is used in the treatment of conditions of the eye and is included in the approved list published on the Board's website.

Wording to appear on the Register of Optometrists

Endorsed as qualified to obtain, possess, administer, prescribe or supply schedule 2, 3 or 4 medicines for the treatment of conditions of the eye

Qualifications

To be eligible to be granted an endorsement for scheduled medicines under section 94, an applicant for registration or a registered optometrist must have successfully completed:

- an approved program of study in ocular therapeutics, or
- a program of study determined by the Board to be substantially equivalent to an approved program of study, or
- an examination or assessment in ocular therapeutics approved by the Board.

An approved program of study is one that has been accredited by the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) and approved by the Optometry Board

of Australia for the purpose of qualifying an optometrist for a scheduled medicines endorsement under section 94 of the National Law.

An approved examination or assessment is one that has been approved by the Board for the purposes of qualifying an optometrist for scheduled medicines endorsement under section 94 of the National Law.

A list of approved programs of study and approved examinations or assessments is available on the Board's website (<http://www.optometryboard.gov.au>).

Other requirements

Endorsed optometrists are expected to comply with practice guidelines on prescribing of scheduled medicines issued from time to time by the Optometry Board of Australia and published in accordance with section 39 of the National Law on the Board's website (<http://www.optometryboard.gov.au>).

Review

This standard for endorsement of registration applies from 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard within three years of operation.

Table 1
Board-approved list of Schedule 4 poisons that optometrists with a scheduled medicines endorsement are qualified to obtain, possess, administer, prescribe or supply for topical use

Anti-infectives

Aciclovir
Azithromycin
Bacitracin
Cephazolin
Chloramphenicol
Ciprofloxacin
Framycetin
Gentamicin
Gramicidin
Neomycin
Ofloxacin
Polymyxin
Tetracycline
Tobramycin
Vidarabine

Anti-inflammatories

Cyclosporin
Dexamethasone
Diclofenac
Fluorometholone
Flurbiprofen
Hydrocortisone
Ketorolac
Prednisolone

Decongestants/ anti-allergics

Olopatadine

Anti-glaucomas

Apraclonidine
Betaxolol
Bimatoprost
Brimonidine
Brinzolamide
Carbachol
Diprivefrin
Dorzolamide
Latanoprost
Levobunolol
Pilocarpine
Timolol
Travoprost

Miotics, mydriatics and cycloplegics

Atropine
Cyclopentolate
Homatropine
Pilocarpine
Phenylephrine
Tropicamide

Local anaesthetics

Amethocaine
Lignocaine
Oxybuprocaine
Proxymetacaine