

NOVEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

Board News

President Gary Hyde and Secretary Beth Workman will complete their Board office terms on December 31, 2007. The Board held officer elections during the October meeting and elected Beth Workman as President and Rhonda Riles as Secretary. Their terms will be from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Proposed Scope Bill

The following information is a bill summary prepared by the Legislative Service Commission concerning HB 149. The Optometry Bill WOULD:

Modify the scope of practice of an optometrist holding a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate or topical ocular pharmaceutical agents certificate.

Require the State Board of Optometry to adopt rules governing the authority of optometrists to administer and prescribe controlled substances.

Prescribe the manner in which the Board may share information with other investigating boards and agencies.

Increase the continuing education requirement for ALL optometrists to a total of 25 hours and at least 10 in pharmacology.

Require optometrists and ophthalmologists who prescribe contact lenses to comply with a provision of The Fairness to Contact Lens Consumer's Act.

House Bill 149 can be viewed in its entirety by going to www.legislature.state.oh.us. Go to Current Legislation, click on House, then Bill, enter the number 149 and click on Go. Click 149 and this will provide you with the entire bill. Also, you can view the complete summary of the bill by clicking on Bill Analysis on the left side of this screen.

Pharmacology Continuing Education Courses

Each year the Board receives numerous questions concerning what qualifies for optometric pharmacology continuing education. The Board relies on OAC 4725-15-04 to identify those courses, which states in part:

4725-15-04. Board approval of pharmacology and ocular disease continuing education course is as follows

(A) The board will approve for optometric pharmacology continuing education compliance only those programs which relate to:

1. General and ocular pharmacology
2. Signs and symptoms of ocular disease
3. The diagnosis, treatment and management of ocular disease
4. Appropriate criteria for referring patients to physicians and co-managing patients with physicians
5. The use of those instruments which are utilized in conjunction with the topical ocular pharmaceutical agents and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents approved pursuant to section 4725.01 of the Revised Code.

Any sponsor of a Board approved course will be told in advance the total number of hours that were approved for pharmacology credit. Additionally, the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) divides the continuing education courses they approve into four specific categories. Those categories are broken down further and utilize identifiers consisting of two alpha characters. The following chart should help you determine which COPE courses the Board will accept as pharmacology.

CLINICAL OPTOMETRY/Board Approved Pharmacology

Contact Lenses (CL) No

Functional Vision/Pediatrics (FV) No

General Optometry (GO) No

Low Vision (LV) No

OCULAR DISEASE

Glaucoma (GL) Yes

Peri-Operative Management of Ophthalmic Surgery (PO) Yes

Refractive Surgery Management (RS) Yes

Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease; Anterior Segment (AS) Yes

Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease; Posterior Segment (PS) Yes

RELATED SYSTEMIC DISEASE

Neuro-Optometry (NO) Yes

Pharmacology (PH) Yes

Principles of Diagnosis (PD) Yes

System/Ocular Disease (SD) Yes

(OPTOMETRIC) BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Ethics/Jurisprudence (EJ) Practice Management (PM)

NO CREDIT, general or pharmacology, will be granted for any COPE course with these alpha identifiers.

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

< DO remember that all hours must be taken between October 1st and September 30th of the current continuing education period to avoid late fees.

< DON'T submit a certificate of attendance unless it is Board approved or COPE approved.

< DO utilize the Board's website (www.optometry.ohio.gov) to determine which courses have been approved by the Board. COPE approved courses can be viewed at www.arbo.org.

< DON'T submit courses on practice management or ethics jurisprudence issues. These cannot be approved by the Board even if they are COPE approved.

< DO make sure each sponsor provides you with an appropriate attendance certificate for submission to the Board.

< DO submit your continuing education as soon as you have completed all of your required hours. DON'T wait until the end of the continuing education period.

< DO include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want a receipt confirming the hours were received by the Board.

< DO remember that it is the individual licensee's responsibility to submit their hours...not the sponsor or groups such as ARBO's O.E. Tracker.

< DO check with the Board prior to taking any course if you are unsure if you will receive credit for the course.