

November 2008 Newsletter
Ohio State Board of Optometry
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Board News

President Beth Workman and Secretary Rhonda Riles will complete their Board office terms on December 31, 2008. The Board held officer elections during the October meeting and elected Rhonda Riles as President and Larry Barger as Secretary. Their terms will be from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

Law and Rule Changes

There have been numerous changes to both the laws and rules governing the practice of optometry during the past year. The following list provides some of the more significant changes in these areas. Utilizing this list you are encouraged to visit the Board's website and review the full content of the law or rule. www.optometry.ohio.gov

Laws:

4725.01 Optometry definitions

- expanded the definition of "practice of optometry"
- defines topical ocular pharmaceutical agent
- defines therapeutic pharmaceutical agent
- authorizes an optometrist to assist an individual to determine blood glucose levels
- provides conditions for prescribing methylprednisolone
- authorizes use of epinephrine in emergency situations

4725.011 Vision-correcting devices delivering drugs

4725.091 Schedule III controlled substances

- directs the Board to adopt rules for schedule III drugs in the narcotics-narcotics preparation category

Rules:

4725-3-10 Criminal records check

- requires all applicants for initial licensure to submit to a criminal records check

4725-5-14 Procedures for reporting clinically induced reactions

- changed the definition as to what constitutes a clinically significant drug-induced side effect

4725-5-19 Utilizing controlled substances for self and family members

- places restrictions for prescribing controlled substances for the optometrist or family members

4725-7-01 Prescription specifications

- updated rule to comply with Federal requirements

4725-7-06 Prescription release

- clarified previous language to ensure compliance with Federal requirements

4725-9-01 Hours required; study compliance year

- **MANDATES TWENTY-FIVE CLOCK HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION WHICH INCLUDES TEN CLOCK HOURS OF INSTRUCTION IN PHARMACOLOGY FOR ALL OPTOMETRISTS**

4725-9-02 Approved education programs

- defines and lists pre-approved continuing education courses, specifies courses must be scientific and clinical in content

4725-9-03 Board approval of continuing education courses

- establishes the parameters in order for a course to receive Board approval. **SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT PRACTICE MANAGEMENT AND ETHICS JURISPRUDENCE COURSES ARE NOT APPROVED FOR C.E. CREDIT.**

4725-4-05 Certificate of attendance; application for approval of continuing education course

- specifies required information on a C.E. course certificate
- permits Board to accept O.E. Tracker print-out with list of courses

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

- list those courses/programs the Board will accept for pharmacology C.E. credit

4725-16-03 Prescribing controlled substances

- establishes parameters for an optometrist with a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate to utilize controlled substances within the schedule III narcotics-narcotics preparation category.

New Continuing Education Requirements

Changes to Ohio Revised Code 4725.16 have resulted in an increase in the continuing education requirement for ALL optometrists to a total of 25 hours each year, including 10 hours in pharmacology. This change will become effective beginning the twelve month period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. The following five general areas will be given pharmacology C.E. credit by the Board.

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

The Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) divides the courses they approve into four specific categories. These categories are broken down further and utilize identifiers consisting of two alpha characters. The following should assist you in determining which COPE courses will be accepted by the Board as pharmacology.

Optometric only credit for these courses:

CLINICAL OPTOMETRY

Contact Lenses (CL)
Functional Vision/Pediatrics (FV)
General Optometry (GO)
Low Vision (LV)

Pharmacology credit for these courses:

OCULAR DISEASE

Glaucoma (GL)
Peri-Operative Management of Ophthalmic Surgery (PO)
Refractive Surgery Management (RS)

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

RELATED SYSTEMIC DISEASE

Neuro-Optometry (NO)
Pharmacology (PH)
Principles of Diagnosis (PD)
System/Ocular Disease (SD)

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

Practice Management (PM)
Ethics/Jurisprudence (EJ)

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.

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.