

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
OPTOMETRY EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF RULE-MAKING : ORDER OF THE  
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE : OPTOMETRY EXAMINING BOARD  
OPTOMETRY EXAMINING BOARD : ADOPTING RULES  
: CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 13-017  
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ORDER

An order of the Optometry Examining Board to amend Opt 5.02(4) relating to lens prescription.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

**Statutes interpreted:** § 449.08, Wis. Stats.

**Statutory authority:** § 15.08(5)(b)

**Explanation of agency authority:** Each examining board shall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains, and define and enforce professional conduct and unethical practices not inconsistent with the law relating to the particular trade or profession.

**Related statute or rule:** Opt 5

**Plain language analysis:**

Modification of the definition for lens prescription would provide clarity and create a consistency between lens prescriptions and contact lens prescriptions. Health care entities are increasingly utilizing electronic prescriptions and signatures as a way to improve patient safety, and control costs.

**Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation:** None

**Comparison with rules in adjacent states:**

**Illinois:** In Illinois no ophthalmic lenses, prisms or contact lenses may be sold or delivered to an individual without a prescription signed by a licensed optometrist or a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches. It does not specifically address electronic prescription.

**Iowa:** In Iowa a person shall not dispense or adapt an ophthalmic spectacle lens or lenses without first receiving authorization to do so by a written, electronic or facsimile prescription from a person licensed as an optometrist or physician.

**Michigan:** Michigan optometry statutes and rules do not have a definition of an optometrist prescription.

**Minnesota:** Minnesota requires prescriptions furnished to the patient to be signed by the examining optometrist. It does not specify whether the prescription may be electronic.

**Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:**

The Optometry Examining Board reviewed their rules with the goal of reducing the burden on small business while continuing to ensure public safety. The Board recognized the efficiencies and accuracy which could be obtained with electronic lens prescriptions. The allowance of electronic lens prescriptions brings the rule in line with contact lens prescriptions.

This rule change was highlighted in the SBRRB's 2013 Wisconsin Regulatory Review Report. As noted in the report, thousands of patients will be able to enjoy the increased speed and accuracy of electronic prescriptions for eyeglasses.

**Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:**

This rule was posted for public comment on the economic impact of the proposed rule, including how this proposed rule may affect businesses, local government units and individuals, for a period of 14 days. No comments were received relating to the economic impact of the rule.

**Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis:**

The Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis is attached.

**Effect on small business:**

These proposed rules do not have an economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. The Department's Regulatory Review Coordinator may be contacted by email at [Greg.Gasper@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Greg.Gasper@wisconsin.gov), or by calling (608) 266-8608.

**Agency contact person:**

Sharon Henes, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 1400 East Washington Avenue, Room 151, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708; telephone (608) 261-2377; email at [Sharon.Henes@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sharon.Henes@wisconsin.gov).

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TEXT OF RULE  
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SECTION 1. Opt 5.02(4) is amended to read:

**Opt 5.02(4)** “Lens prescription” means a written or electronic order that contains the specifications for ophthalmic materials for a particular patient for the purpose of treating the refractive or functional abilities of the visual system or the enhancement of visual performance.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule takes effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register as provided in s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

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(END OF TEXT OF RULE)  
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Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Member of the Board  
Optometry Examining Board