

## Chapter Opt 6

### CERTIFICATION TO USE THERAPEUTIC PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS AND TO REMOVE SUPERFICIAL FOREIGN BODIES FROM AN EYE OR FROM AN APPENDAGE TO THE EYE

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**Opt 6.01 Authority.** The rules in this chapter are adopted under authority in ss. 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) and 449.18, Stats.  
**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91.

**Opt 6.02 Definitions.** In this chapter:

- (1) "Adverse drug reaction referral plan" has the meaning given under s. RL 10.01.
- (2) "Biennium" means a 2 year period beginning January 1 of even-numbered years.
- (3) "Hardship" means serious illness, as determined by a licensed health care provider, or some other personal adversity, as determined by the board.
- (4) "100 hours of approved study" means a course of study offered on or after January 1, 1987 by an institution approved by the board in accordance with s. 449.18, Stats.
- (5) "TPA certificate" means a certificate granted by the optometry examining board as defined in s. RL 10.01.
- (6) "TPA" or "therapeutic pharmaceutical agent" means the agents as defined in s. RL 10.01.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91; r. (3), Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97; **CR 05-036: cr. (intro.) and (3) Register January 2006 No. 601, eff. 2-1-06.**

**Opt 6.03 Application for certification.** To obtain a TPA certificate an optometrist shall:

- (1) Submit evidence satisfactory to the board that the optometrist has complied with the following requirements in accordance with s. 449.18, Stats.:
  - (a) Has obtained certification under s. 449.17, Stats., to use diagnostic pharmaceutical agents.
  - (b) Has successfully completed 100 hours of approved study in the use of TPAs and removal of superficial foreign bodies from an eye or from an appendage to the eye.
  - (c) Has passed an examination conducted or approved by the board.

**Note:** Applications for certification may be obtained from the board office located at 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708.

(2) Submit an updated adverse drug reaction referral plan revised to reflect planning for use of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91; am. (1) (a) and (b), Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97.

**Opt 6.04 Continuing education.** (1) A certificate holder shall complete 30 hours of approved continuing education in each biennial registration period. A minimum of 7 of the 30 hours shall be approved glaucoma education. Except as provided in sub. (2), approved continuing education hours shall relate to the diagnosis and management of eye disease or the removal of superficial foreign bodies from the eye or from an appendage to the eye.

(2) No more than a combined total of 6 hours of continuing education per biennium may be claimed for course work that relates to one or more of the following subject matter:

- (a) Contact lens.
- (b) Functional vision – pediatrics.
- (c) General optometry.

- (d) Low vision.
- (e) Jurisprudence.
- (f) Practice management.

(2m) Continuing education hours may be applied only to the biennial registration period in which the continuing education hours are acquired, except as provided under s. Opt 6.08, to apply credits to the previous biennium to satisfy requirements for renewal of a certificate which has lapsed.

(3) To obtain credit for completion of continuing education hours, an optometrist shall, at the time of each renewal of registration, sign a statement certifying that the coursework has been completed. If audited, an optometrist shall submit certificates of attendance issued by each provider or other evidence of attendance satisfactory to the board.

(4) A TPA certificate holder who fails to meet the continuing education requirements by the renewal date may not use therapeutic pharmaceuticals or remove superficial foreign bodies from the eye or from an appendage to the eye after the renewal date until the certificate is renewed under s. Opt 6.08.

(5) Optometrists initially certified under s. 449.18, Stats., within a biennium shall complete one hour of board approved continuing education per month or partial month of certification reported on or before January 1 of the biennium. A minimum of one-quarter of the continuing education hours must be in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma.

(6) Except as provided in sub. (7), no more than a combined total of 6 hours of continuing education per biennium may be claimed for course work obtained through alternative delivery methods such as home-study courses, self-study packages, computer courses, televideo conferencing, or other delivery methods approved by the board under s. Opt 6.05 (5).

(7) The board may permit a certificate holder to claim more than 6 hours of continuing education per biennium for course work obtained through alternative delivery methods such as home-study courses, self-study packages, computer courses, televideo conferencing, or other delivery methods approved by the board, if the credential holder submits evidence, satisfactory to the board, of hardship.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91; am. (2), (4) and (5), Register, January, 1993, No. 445, eff. 2-1-93; renum. (1) to be (1) (a) and am., cr. (1) (b), Register, April, 1994, No. 460, eff. 5-1-94; am. (1) (a), Register, April, 1996, No. 484, eff. 5-1-96; renum. (1) (a) to be (1) and am., r. (1) (b), am. (2) to (5), Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97; **CR 05-036: am. (1), renum. (2) to be (2m), cr. (2), (6) and (7) Register January 2006 No. 601, eff. 2-1-06.**

**Opt 6.05 Approval of continuing education courses.** (1) Except as provided in sub. (6), to apply for approval of a continuing education course, a course provider shall submit to the board office an application on forms provided by the board and shall include the title, general description and an outline of the course, the dates, the location, the name and qualifications of the instructor of the course, and the sponsor of the course.

(2) The following criteria will be considered in the approval process:

- (a) The subject matter of the course pertains to the practice of optometry.

(b) The provider of the continuing education course agrees to monitor the attendance and furnish a certificate of attendance to each participant. The certificate of attendance shall certify successful completion of the course.

(c) The provider of the course is approved by the board.

(d) The course content and instructional methodologies.

(3) Except as provided in sub. (6), a separate application shall be submitted for each continuing education course approval request.

(5) Alternate delivery method continuing education courses such as home-study courses, self-study packages, computer courses, televideo conferencing and other methods may be approved by the board.

(6) A continuing education course approved by the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) which satisfies the criteria established under sub. (2), and is included in one of the following categories established by COPE, shall be approved by the board without receipt of a course approval application from the provider:

- (a) CL – Contact lens.
- (b) FV – Functional vision – pediatrics.
- (c) G – Glaucoma.
- (d) GO – General optometry.
- (e) JP – Jurisprudence.
- (f) LV – Low vision.
- (g) NO – Neuro-optometry.
- (h) OS – Management of ophthalmic surgery.
- (i) PD – Principles of diagnosis.
- (j) PH – Pharmacology.
- (k) PM – Practice management.
- (L) RS – Refractive surgery management.
- (m) SD – Systemic disease.
- (n) TA – Treatment anterior segment.
- (o) TP – Treatment posterior segment.

**Note:** The Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) is a committee of the International Association of Boards of Examiners in Optometry, Inc. (IAB). An application for course approval by COPE may be obtained at 1750 South Brentwood Boulevard, Suite 503, St. Louis, MO 63144-1341.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91; am. (4), Register, April, 1994, No. 460, eff. 5-1-94; am. (1), (2) (a), (3), cr. (6), Register, May, 1995,

No. 473, eff. 6-1-95; am. (2) (a) to (c) and (4), Register, April, 1996, No. 484, eff. 5-1-96; **CR 05-036; am. (2) (a) and (b), r. (4), renum. (6) to be (6) (intro.) and am. cr. (6) (a) to (o) Register January 2006 No. 601, eff. 2-1-06.**

**Opt 6.06 Renewal of certificate.** TPA certificates expire on January 1 of each even-numbered year. Renewal applications shall be submitted on a form provided by the department on or before the renewal date specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a) 54., Stats., along with certification of completion of the continuing education requirements specified in s. Opt 6.04.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1990, No. 420, eff. 1-1-91; r. and recr. Register, January, 1993, No. 445, eff. 2-1-93; am. Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97.

**Opt 6.07 Failure to renew.** An optometrist who fails to renew a TPA certificate by the renewal date may not use therapeutic pharmaceutical agents or remove foreign bodies from an eye or from an appendage to the eye until the certificate is renewed under s. Opt 6.08.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1993, No. 445, eff. 2-1-93; am. Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97.

**Opt 6.08 Late renewal of certificate.** An optometrist who fails to renew a TPA certificate by the renewal date may renew the TPA certificate by submitting an application on a form provided by the department, and satisfying the following requirements:

(1) If applying less than 5 years after the renewal date, submit certification of completion of 30 hours of continuing education coursework as required under s. Opt 6.04.

(2) If applying 5 years or more after the renewal date, submit certification of completion of 30 hours of continuing education coursework as required under s. Opt 6.04, and proof of the following as ordered by the board:

(a) Successful completion of educational coursework required by the board to ensure protection of the public health, safety and welfare.

(b) Successful completion of an examination required by the board to ensure protection of the public health, safety and welfare.

**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1993, No. 445, eff. 2-1-93; am. (intro.), (1), (2) (intro.) and (a), Register, September, 1997, No. 501, eff. 10-1-97.