

PHARMACEUTICAL CERTIFICATION BOARD BY-LAWS
APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTH
UNDER SUBSECTION 7(4) OF THE OPTOMETRY ACT, 2004

1. These by-laws shall be referred to as the Pharmaceutical Certification Board by-laws.
2. In these by-laws

“Pharmaceutical Certification Board” means the Pharmaceutical Certification Board established under section 20 of the Optometry Act, 2004.

“Certified Therapeutic Optometrist” means an optometrist who has been certified by the Pharmaceutical Certification Board to administer pharmaceutical agents.
3. Members of the Pharmaceutical Certification Board shall be appointed as follows
 - (a) the chairperson of the Board of Examiners;
 - (b) two members of the Association appointed by Council; and
 - (c) two members appointed by the Minister, one of whom shall be a licensed pharmacist.
4. Members of the Pharmaceutical Certification Board shall be appointed for terms of two years and may be reappointed.
5. The Council shall name one member of the Pharmaceutical Certification Board to be the chairperson.
6. The majority of members of the Pharmaceutical Certification Board constitutes a quorum and decisions of the Pharmaceutical Certification Board shall be by majority vote of the quorum.
7. Members of the Pharmaceutical Certification Board shall be paid a daily rate plus expenses in amounts and in accordance with guidelines approved by Council from time to time.
8. The Pharmaceutical Certification Board shall meet at such times and places as decided by the chairperson of the Pharmaceutical Certification Board in consultation with the Pharmaceutical Certification Board members and as frequently as necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Pharmaceutical Certification Board in an expeditious manner.

CERTIFICATION [LEVEL 1 AND 2 CERTIFICATION DESCRIBED IN APPENDIX 3]

- 9(1) An optometrist who has graduated from an approved Canadian school of optometry or a school approved by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) of the American Optometric Association in 1995 or later may be granted certification as a Certified Therapeutic Optometrist [Level 1 certification] if that optometrist has
 - (a) successfully completed a rotation in clinical training using therapeutic medications in an academic setting;
 - (b) successfully passed the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standards Assessment in Optometry (CSAO) examination or the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Assessment of Competence in Optometry (CACO) examination, or the National Examination, as defined in section 1 of the general by-laws; and
 - (c) has paid the required application fee.

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- 9(2)** An optometrist who has graduated from an approved Canadian school of optometry or a school approved by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) of the American Optometric Association between 1995 and January 1, 2019 may be granted certification as a Certified Therapeutic Optometrist [Level 2 certification] if that optometrist has
- (a) successfully completed a rotation in clinical training using therapeutic medications in an academic setting;
 - (b) successfully passed the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standards Assessment in Optometry (CSAO) examination or the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Assessment of Competence in Optometry (CACO) examination, or the National Examination, as defined in section 1 of the general by-laws;
 - (c) successfully completed a Pharmaceutical Certification Board approved Advanced Therapeutics Certification Course [Level 2]; and
 - (d) has paid the required application fee.
- 9(3)** An optometrist who has graduated from an approved Canadian school of optometry or a school approved by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) of the American Optometric Association on January 1, 2019 or later may be granted certification as a Certified Therapeutic Optometrist [Level 2 certification] if that optometrist has
- (a) successfully completed a rotation in clinical training using therapeutic medications in an academic setting;
 - (b) successfully passed the National Examination, as defined in section 1 of the general by-laws; and
 - (c) has paid the required application fee.
- 10.** An optometrist who graduated from an approved Canadian school of optometry or a school approved by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) of the American Optometric Association before 1995 may be granted certification as a Certified Therapeutic Optometrist if that optometrist has
- (a) successfully completed a Pharmaceutical Certification Board approved post-graduate course of not less than one hundred hours duration [Level 1 certification];
 - (b) successfully completed a Pharmaceutical Certification Board approved Advanced Therapeutics Course [Level 2 certification];
 - (c) successfully passed all examinations approved by the Pharmaceutical Certification Board; and
 - (d) has paid the required application fee.

EXPIRY OF CERTIFICATION

- 11.** The certificate of a Certified Therapeutic Optometrist is valid for a period of three years only from the date it is issued and expires automatically on the third anniversary of that date unless renewed under section 12.

RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATION

- 12.** A Certified Therapeutic Optometrist may apply for the renewal of a certificate issued under sections 9 or 10 upon
- (a) filing written proof with the Pharmaceutical Certification Board of successful completion of a minimum of ten hours of approved continuing education in the use of pharmaceutical agents, all of which shall have been completed within the three-year term of the expiring certificate, and
 - (b) payment of the required renewal fee.

DESIGNATION

- 13(1)** An optometrist who has been issued a certificate under sections 9 or 10, or a renewal of such Certificate under section 12, may use the designation Certified Therapeutic Optometrist.
- 13(2)** Every licence issued to a Certified Therapeutic Optometrist shall have a number followed by the letter "T".
- 13(3)** Every prescription given by a Certified Therapeutic Optometrist shall include the optometrist's licence number as provided under subsection (2).
- 14.** The Association shall not issue any license to an optometrist with a number including the letter "T" unless that optometrist is a Certified Therapeutic Optometrist in good standing with the Association.

REGISTER

- 15(1)** The Association shall maintain a separate register of all Certified Therapeutic Optometrists who are in good standing with the Association and shall continually update the list as required.
- 15(2)** The register maintained under subsection (1) shall be made available to the New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society annually or as requested by that Society.

FORMULARY OF DRUG CATEGORIES

- 16.** Subject to the other provisions in these by-laws, a Certified Therapeutic Optometrist may prescribe, administer and use those drugs contained within Schedule 1 to the National Drug Schedule endorsed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) applicable to eye-related conditions, and may not prescribe, administer or use Schedule 1 drugs not applicable to the treatment of eye-related conditions.

CLINICAL GUIDELINES

- 17.** Every Certified Therapeutic Optometrist shall comply with the guidelines for prescribing medications to treat eye-related conditions as set out in Appendix 1 to these by-laws.
- 18.** Every Certified Therapeutic Optometrist shall comply with the guidelines for referral of patients as set out in Appendix 2 of these by-laws.
- 19.** Failure to comply with the guidelines in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 constitutes professional misconduct.

APPENDIX 1**PHARMACEUTICAL CERTIFICATION BOARD
GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING MEDICATIONS**

The following are minimum standards for Certified Therapeutic Optometrists when diagnosing, treating and monitoring their patients:

- (a) Only Certified Therapeutic Optometrists may prescribe pharmaceutical agents, and shall only use those agents that have been recommended by the Pharmaceutical Certification Board and approved by the Minister of Health. These medications will be reviewed annually.
- (b) The diagnosis shall be appropriate to the history and findings.
- (c) The prescribed agent, its dosage, its frequency, and duration of treatment shall be consistent with currently accepted treatments standards.
- (d) The schedule of progress evaluations, where appropriate, shall be arranged.
- (e) Adequate records shall be made of the diagnostic workup, the pharmaceutical prescription and any progress evaluations performed.
- (f) The patient's physician has been contacted, when indicated, and consideration has been given to systemic complications of the ocular disease or its treatment.
- (g) The treatment plan has been altered as required if the patient's systemic health predisposes any complications that may arise from the standard treatment of the ocular disease.
- (h) The Certified Therapeutic Optometrist has established a method whereby his/her patients will be directed to a facility capable of providing care during that optometrist's absence from his/her office. Arrangements must be made in advance with the receiving facility agreeing to accept the patient.
- (i) If in the course of treatment, the condition being treated is not resolving in an anticipated manner or in a reasonable amount of time, the optometrist shall refer the patient to a physician.
- (j) Conditions which require laboratory testing to assist in the management of disease shall be referred to a physician.

APPENDIX 2**PHARMACEUTICAL CERTIFICATION BOARD
GUIDELINES FOR OPTOMETRIC REFERRAL**

If, in the course of the examination of a patient, an optometrist detects or suspects the presence of a condition requiring evaluation or treatment that is outside the optometrist's level of competence, or outside the scope of optometric practice, then it is the professional responsibility of the optometrist to refer the patient for further care to an appropriate practitioner.

A patient's initial request for referral to an appropriate health care practitioner must be honoured. Subsequent requests for the same conditions will be considered at the discretion of the optometrist.

APPENDIX 3**PHARMACEUTICAL CERTIFICATION BOARD
CERTIFICATION LEVEL 1 AND 2 DESCRIPTION**

Optometrists must practice within their level of competence and scope of practice. Treating or attempting to treat an eye problem which is beyond the experience or competence of the optometrist will be considered an act of professional misconduct.

Level 1 Certification

A Certified Therapeutic Optometrist (Level 1) may prescribe any TOPICAL medications contained within Schedule 1 to the National Drug Schedule endorsed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) applicable to eye-related conditions, with the exception of anti-glaucoma medications, which shall only be prescribed for emergency treatment of angle closure glaucoma.

Level 2 Certification

A Certified Therapeutic Optometrist (Level 2) may prescribe any TOPICAL or ORAL medications contained within Schedule 1 to the National Drug Schedule endorsed by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA) applicable to eye-related conditions, including anti-glaucoma medications.