



Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents Policy: Educational Requirements for Members to Prescribe Drugs

Amended: June 12, 2008

Amendments are highlighted in **bold**.

General Certificate of Registration

- A. Each member who holds a General Certificate of Registration and who wishes to be authorized to prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents must meet one of the following:
1. On or after January 1, 1995, have graduated from an Accreditation Council on Optometric Education accredited program or had their education deemed equivalent to the education received by a graduate of the University of Waterloo School of Optometry, and
 - a. have successfully completed on or after January 1, 2002 either the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry exam including the Ocular Therapeutics component or the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry; or
 - b. have successfully completed,
 - i. on or after January 1, 1995 and prior to January 1, 2002 either the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry exam including the Ocular Therapeutics component or the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry; and
 - ii. on or after January 1, 2002, a refresher course of a minimum of 20 hours in the treatment of ocular disease approved by the Council or that meets the criteria set by the Council; or
 - c. have successfully completed,
 - i. on or after January 1, 1995, the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry but not the Ocular Therapeutics component, and
 - ii. on or after January 1, 2002, the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry, or the Treatment and Management of Ocular

Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry; or

- d. have successfully completed, on or after January 1, 2002, a course of a minimum of 100 hours in the treatment and management of ocular disease approved by the Council or that meets the criteria set by the Council, and
 - i. passed the course exam; or
 - ii. successfully completed the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; or
 - iii. successfully completed the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; or
- e. have successfully completed,
 - i. prior to January 1, 2002, a course of a minimum of 100 hours in the treatment and management of ocular disease that meets the criteria set by the Council; and
 - 1. passed the course exam; or
 - 2. successfully completed the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; or
 - 3. successfully completed the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; and
 - ii. on or after January 1, 2002, a refresher course of a minimum of 20 hours in the treatment of ocular disease approved by the Council or that meets the criteria set by the Council.
- 2. Prior to January 1, 1995, have graduated from an Accreditation Council on Optometric Education accredited program or had their education deemed equivalent to the education received by a graduate of the University of Waterloo School of Optometry, and
 - a. have provided proof to the College in the form of a transcript from an Accreditation Council on Optometric Education accredited school of having successfully completed ocular therapeutic training including an externship that focused on the prescribing of drugs in the optometric practice, and have successfully completed, on or after January 1, 2002,
 - i. a refresher course of a minimum of 20 hours in the treatment of ocular disease approved by the Council or that meets the criteria set by the Council; or
 - ii. the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry; or

- iii. the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry; or
 - b. have successfully completed, on or after January 1, 2002, a course of a minimum of 100 hours in the treatment and management of ocular disease approved by the Council or that meets the criteria set by the Council, and
 - i. passed the course exam; or
 - ii. successfully completed the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; or
 - iii. successfully completed the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; or
 - c. have successfully completed,
 - i. prior to January 1, 2002, a course of a minimum of 100 hours in the treatment and management of ocular disease that meets the criteria set by the Council, and
 - 1. passed the course exam; or
 - 2. successfully completed the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; or successfully completed the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; and
 - ii. on or after January 1, 2002, a refresher course of a minimum of 20 hours in the treatment of ocular disease approved by the Council or that meets the criteria set by the Council, or the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry, or the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.
- 3. Have satisfied the College that **the member was previously** registered or licensed as an optometrist in another province or territory in Canada or one of the United States of America and had the authority to prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents in that jurisdiction, and
 - a. practised using that authority on or after January 1, 2002; or
 - b. successfully completed on or after January 1, 2002
 - i. a refresher course of a minimum of 20 hours in the treatment and management of ocular disease approved by the Council or that meets the criteria set by the Council; or
 - ii. the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry; or

- iii. the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Academic Certificate of Registration

- B. Each member who holds an Academic Certificate of Registration and who wishes to be authorized to prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents must meet one of the following:
1. Have successfully completed, on or after January 1, 2002, a course of a minimum of 100 hours in the treatment and management of ocular disease approved by the Council or that meets the criteria set by the Council, and
 - a. passed the course exam; or
 - b. successfully completed the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; or
 - c. successfully completed the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course.
 2. Have successfully completed,
 - a. prior to January 1, 2002, a course of a minimum of 100 hours in the treatment and management of ocular disease that meets the criteria set by the Council, and
 - i. passed the course exam; or
 - ii. successfully completed the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; or
 - iii. successfully completed the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry after taking the 100-hour course; and
 - b. on or after January 1, 2002, a refresher course of a minimum of 20 hours in the treatment of ocular disease approved by the Council or that meets the criteria set by the Council.
 3. **Have satisfied the College that the member was previously registered or licensed as an optometrist in another province or territory in Canada or one of the United States of America and had the authority to prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents in that jurisdiction, and**

- a, practised using that authority on or after January 1, 2002; or**
 - b. successfully completed on or after January 1, 2002**
 - i. a refresher course of a minimum of 20 hours in the treatment and management of ocular disease approved by the Council or that meets the criteria set by the Council;**
 - or**
 - ii. the Ocular Therapeutics component of the Canadian Standard Assessment in Optometry; or**
 - iii. the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease exam administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.**
4. Have successfully completed a program that the Registration Committee, having considered the rest of the member's qualifications, determines is acceptable.