

## **Information for Oral, Therapeutic and Schedule III Drugs**

### **4725.01 Optometry definitions.**

As used in this chapter:

(A)(1) The “practice of optometry” means the application of optical principles, through technical methods and devices, in the examination of human eyes for the purpose of ascertaining departures from the normal, measuring their functional powers, adapting optical accessories for the aid thereof, and detecting ocular abnormalities that may be evidence of disease, pathology, or injury.

(2) In the case of a licensed optometrist who holds a topical ocular pharmaceutical agents certificate, the “practice of optometry” has the same meaning as in division (A)(1) of this section, except that it also includes administering topical ocular pharmaceutical agents .

(3) In the case of a licensed optometrist who holds a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate, the “practice of optometry” has the same meaning as in division (A)(1) of this section, except that it also includes all of the following:

(a) Employing, applying, administering, and prescribing instruments, devices, and procedures, other than invasive procedures, for purposes of examination, investigation, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of any disease, injury, or other abnormal condition of the visual system;

(b) Employing, applying, administering, and prescribing topical ocular pharmaceutical agents;

(c) Employing, applying, administering, and prescribing therapeutic pharmaceutical agents;

(d) Assisting an individual in determining the individual’s blood glucose level by using a commercially available glucose-monitoring device. Nothing in this section precludes a licensed optometrist who holds a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate from using any particular type of commercially available glucose-monitoring device.

(B) “Topical ocular pharmaceutical agent” means a drug or dangerous drug that is a topical drug and used in the practice of optometry as follows:

(1) In the case of a licensed optometrist who holds a topical ocular pharmaceutical agents certificate, for evaluative purposes in the practice of optometry as set forth in division (A)(1) of this section;

(2) In the case of a licensed optometrist who holds a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate, for purposes of examination, investigation, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of any disease, injury, or other abnormal condition of the visual system.

(C) “Therapeutic pharmaceutical agent” means a drug or dangerous drug that is used for examination, investigation, diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of any disease, injury, or other abnormal condition of the visual system in the practice of optometry by a licensed optometrist who holds a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate, and is any of the following:

(1) An oral drug or dangerous drug in one of the following classifications:

(a) Anti-infectives, including antibiotics, antivirals, antimicrobials, and antifungals;

(b) Anti-allergy agents;

(c) Antiglaucoma agents;

(d) Analgesics, including only analgesic drugs that are available without a prescription, analgesic drugs or dangerous drugs that require a prescription but are not controlled substances, and schedule III controlled substances authorized by the state board of optometry in rules adopted under section 4725.091 of the Revised Code;

(e) Anti-inflammatories, excluding all drugs or dangerous drugs classified as oral steroids other than methylprednisolone, which may be used under a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate only if all of the following conditions are met:

(i) The drug is prescribed for use in allergy cases;

(ii) The drug is prescribed for use by an individual who is eighteen years of age or older;

(iii) The drug is prescribed on the basis of an individual's particular episode of illness;

(iv) The drug is prescribed in an amount that does not exceed the amount packaged for a single course of therapy.

(2) Epinephrine administered by injection to individuals in emergency situations to counteract anaphylaxis or anaphylactic shock. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, administration of epinephrine in this manner does not constitute performance of an invasive procedure.

(3) An oral drug or dangerous drug that is not included under division (C)(1) of this section, if the drug or dangerous drug is approved, exempt from approval, certified, or exempt from certification by the federal food and drug administration for ophthalmic purposes and the drug or dangerous drug is specified in rules adopted by the state board of optometry under section 4725.09 of the Revised Code.

(D) "Controlled substance" has the same meaning as in section 3719.01 of the Revised Code.

(E) "Drug" and "dangerous drug" have the same meanings as in section 4729.01 of the Revised Code.

(F) "Invasive procedure" means any procedure that involves cutting or otherwise infiltrating human tissue by mechanical means including surgery, laser surgery, ionizing radiation, therapeutic ultrasound, administering medication by injection, or the removal of intraocular foreign bodies.

(G) "Visual system" means the human eye and its accessory or subordinate anatomical parts.

(H) "Certificate of licensure" means a certificate issued by the state board of optometry under section 4725.13 of the Revised Code authorizing the holder to practice optometry as provided in division (A)(1) of this section.

(I) "Topical ocular pharmaceutical agents certificate" means a certificate issued by the state board of optometry under section 4725.13 of the Revised Code authorizing the holder to practice optometry as provided in division (A)(2) of this section.

(J) "Therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate" means a certificate issued by the state board of optometry under division (A)(3) or (4) of section 4725.13 of the Revised Code authorizing the holder to practice optometry as provided in division (A)(3) of this section.

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### **4725-16-03 Prescribing controlled substances.**

A licensed optometrist, who holds a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate is authorized to employ, apply, administer and prescribe schedule III controlled substances that are determined to be appropriate for use in the practice of optometry pursuant to the following:

(A) A licensed optometrist who holds a therapeutic pharmaceutical agents certificate may prescribe the following controlled substances contained in section [3719.41](#) of the Revised Code within the schedule III narcotics – narcotic preparations category:

(1) A preparation used for the treatment of pain that contains not more than sixty mg of codeine per dosage unit and also contains other active nonnarcotic ingredients (e.g. acetaminophen or aspirin) in a recognized therapeutic amount.

(2) A preparation used for the treatment of pain that contains not more than 7.5 mg of hydrocodone per dosage unit and also contains other active nonnarcotic ingredients (e.g. acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen) in a recognized therapeutic amount.

(B) The total quantity prescribed shall not exceed a single four-day supply of schedule III controlled substances per episode of illness, injury and/or treatment.

(C) Controlled substances may only be prescribed by an optometrist if the product's FDA approved labeling contains an indication for pain.

The failure to comply with all or part of this rule constitutes a violation of divisions (B)(3), (B)(9), and/or (B)(13) of section 4725.19 of the Revised Code.

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