
OPTOMETRIST PRESCRIBING & DISPENSING FACT SHEET

INTRODUCTION

Beginning on October 1, 1999, optometrists were authorized to prescribe some drugs and controlled substances. Additionally, optometrists also have a limited ability to administer certain drugs.

CERTIFICATE REQUIRED

An optometrist may prescribe drugs and controlled substances only if he or she has obtained a certificate from the Nevada State Board of Optometry and a Controlled Substances Registration (DEA number).ⁱ Any question as to whether a given optometrist has such a certificate may be directed to the Board of Optometry at (775) 883-8367.

DANGEROUS DRUGS

If an optometrist has a certificate from the Board of Optometry, he or she may prescribe drugs approved by the FDA for the treatment of abnormalities of the eye or its appendages in the following categories:

- (1) A topical medication,ⁱⁱ
- (2) An oral antibiotic,ⁱⁱⁱ or
- (3) An oral medication for allergies that does not contain steroids.^{iv}

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND LIMITATIONS

If an optometrist has a certificate from the Board of Optometry, he or she may prescribe controlled substances approved by the FDA

for the treatment of abnormalities of the eye or its appendages in the following categories:

- (4) An analgesic of hydrocodone with compounds,^v
- (5) An analgesic with codeine with compounds,^{vi} or
- (6) An analgesic with propoxyphene with compounds.^{vii}

Any such controlled substances prescription must be limited to a quantity that will *not* last more than 72 hours and may *not* be refilled.^{viii}

OPTOMETRIST DISPENSING OF DRUGS

If an optometrist has a certificate from the Board of Optometry, he or she may obtain and administer the following ophthalmic agents for diagnostic purposes:

- (1) Mydriatics,^{ix}
- (2) Cycloplegics,^x
- (3) Topical anesthetics,^{xi} and
- (4) Miotics.^{xii}

ⁱ NRS 636.286.

ⁱⁱ NRS 636.024(1).

ⁱⁱⁱ NRS 636.024(2).

^{iv} NRS 636.024(3).

^v NRS 636.024(4) and 636.2882.

^{vi} NRS 636.024(4) and 636.2882.

^{vii} NRS 636.024(4) and 636.2882.

^{viii} NRS 636.2882(2) & (3).

^{ix} NRS 636.382(3)(a).

^x NRS 636.382(3)(b).

^{xi} NRS 636.382(3)(c).

^{xii} NRS 636.382(3)(d).