

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
Secretary of State, Office of Professional Regulation
National Life Building, North, Floor 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3402
APPROVED MINUTES
June 4, 2008
Via Phone Conference

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM.

Members participating via phone: Jon Eriksson, O.D., Chairman; Lois Shiozawa, O.D.; and Daniel DaPolito, O.D.
Absent: Joyce Zampieri.

OPR Personnel: Carla Preston, Unit Administrator and Kara Shangraw, Administrative Assistant.

2. The Chair called for approval of the Minutes of the April 2nd meeting. On page 2, under Reports, a new sentence was added to further clarify the discussion about Zofran. The new sentence reads: "Members noted that Zofran is already on the list of approved drugs by default because it is considered an anti-emetic oral agent used in acute angle glaucoma." Dr. DaPolito made a motion, seconded by Dr. Shiozawa, to approve the Minutes of the April 2, 2008 meeting as corrected. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Reports**

The Board asked about the status of its request for additional drugs to be added to the formulary. A letter was sent to the Director, Christopher Winters, on April 30, 2008. The Board's request has been forwarded to the Vermont Department of Health for consideration, which has 60 days in which to respond. Chairman Eriksson will follow-up with the Director in early July to check on the status of the Board's request.

4. **Legislation/Rulemaking**

Ms. Preston reported that the Office bill had been signed by the Governor. Any new provisions affecting the Board will be included in its Newsletter.

5. **Applicants for Licensure as Optometrists:**

6. **Newsletter Topics – Renewal Form Approval**

The Board discussed topics to be covered in its 2008 Newsletter. Dr. Eriksson will cover the results of the audit for co-management and treating glaucoma in his Chairman's report. In addition, proposed new legislation if any, new drugs that have been to the formulary, a reminder for licensees to contact the Secretary of State's Office versus board members independently, OPR's new licensing system, statistics, etc. The Board will also ask licensees to voluntarily send in their evidence of having treated five newly diagnosed glaucoma patients in collaboration with an ophthalmologist. The Board plans to perform another audit soon after the renewal period ends on July 31, 2008.

The Board discussed the questions on the renewal form concerning treating glaucoma patients (Act 108 Pharmaceutical Endorsement) and how to make them clearer to avoid confusion. Approximately 84 licensees have received the Act 108 Pharmaceutical Endorsement on the basis of having successfully completed the coursework and examination or are exempt because they graduated in 2003 or later. Twenty-four licensees have been approved to independently treat glaucoma patients. The Board discussed rewording the questions.

6. **Newsletter Topics – Renewal Form Approval** - continued

Suggested revisions to the questions on the renewal application are as follows:

1. Have you met the educational requirements (successfully completed an 18 hour course and passed the examination - March 17, 2005), or are exempt because you graduated after 2003?
2. Did you identify five newly diagnosed glaucoma patients and collaborate with an ophthalmologist before treating glaucoma patients independently (no earlier than March 17, 2005)?
3. I have received Board approval (or am exempt because I graduated in 2003 or later), to independently treat glaucoma patients.

The Board was in favor of charging a fee (\$50 to \$75) for licensees to maintain an “inactive status” of their license. The Board’s position on this issue will be presented to the Director for consideration.

7. **Correspondence:**

8. **Public Comment**

9. **Other Business Introduced:**

10. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 17, 2008** at 8:30 AM. The Board will schedule a tentative meeting in November to deal with any remaining issues concerning the audit of licensees for glaucoma and continuing education. Ms. Shangraw will send out a list of dates available.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Preston
Unit Administrator
Office of Professional Regulation