

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 AM.

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

OPR Personnel: Larry S. Novins, Board Counsel and Carla Preston, Unit Administrator.

2. The Chair called for approval of the Minutes of the October 31, 2007 meeting. The second paragraph under item 9 (a) was corrected to read Dr. St. Marie (not Pierre). Dr. DaPolito made a motion, seconded by Dr. Shiozawa, to approve the Minutes of the October 31, 2007 meeting as corrected. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Audit Results**

The Board reviewed documents submitted from the following licensees who were audited for co-management of five new patients diagnosed with glaucoma or continuing education credits. The Board's findings are stated below.

- a. **Dorothy Brodmann, O.D.** – The Board found that based on the information submitted none of the three patients would meet the requirement for co-management with an ophthalmologist. The letters were vague, thus it was unclear if the patients were diagnosed or being treated for glaucoma.
- b. **Michael Celotti, O.D.** – The Board found that the names of the patients provided were not new patients but established patients who had already been diagnosed with glaucoma. Dr. Celotti will be advised that he must provide the glaucoma diagnosis and then ask for co-management with an ophthalmologist. Dr. Celotti indicated that he is also licensed in New York and asked if patients who reside in New York would be acceptable. The Board concluded that the location of the patient was not relevant and would be acceptable provided the patient is a new patient or an established patient with a new diagnosis of glaucoma.
- c. **Diane DaPolito, O.D.** – The Board found that based on the information provided, Dr. DaPolito has met the criteria and may treat glaucoma patients independently as set forth in Title 26 V.S.A. § 1729a. (Dr. Dan DaPolito recused himself from this discussion and did not participate in the vote.)
- d. **Richard DelBianco, O.D.** – The Board found that the two patients Dr. DelBianco submitted met the criteria and were acceptable. Dr. DelBianco now has two of the five patients needed to treat glaucoma independently. He must submit the names of three additional patients.
- e. **Mark Leipert, O.D.** – The Board found that the two additional patients Dr. Leipert submitted met the criteria and were acceptable. Dr. Leipert has met the requirement and may treat glaucoma patients independently as set forth in Title 26 V.S.A. § 1729a.
- f. **Michael Porter, O.D.** – The Board found that the two additional patients Dr. Porter submitted met the criteria and were acceptable. Dr. Porter has met the requirement and may treat glaucoma patients independently as set forth in Title 26 V.S.A. § 1729a.

- f. **Hayes Sogoloff, O.D.** – (Continuing Education) – Members were not provided with copies of all of the information Dr. Sogoloff had submitted concerning his continuing education credits. The Board authorized Dr. Shiozawa to review the entire packet to determine whether Dr. Sogoloff is in compliance with continuing education. Dr. Sogoloff must report another forty credits when he renews his license by the end of July. The Board agreed to audit his CE credits and will advise him that he must submit all of his documentation for the continuing education credits he has taken with his renewal. He will be notified.

4. **Reports**

Larry Novins, Esq. indicated that he wrote to Dr. Stephen St. Marie last November concerning his request for certain drugs to be added to the formulary. He said he has not received any response. Doctors Eriksson and DaPolito noted that they each received a response from Dr. St. Marie dated March 13, 2008, which was faxed to the Office for discussion purposes.

The Board recommended that the following drugs be added to the formulary: Minocycline and Erythromycin. Members noted that Metrogel is already on the list of approved drugs by default because it is considered a topical agent. It may not however, be common knowledge among practitioners. The drug cannot be put in the eye but may be used around the eye lid. Dr. DaPolito agreed to research the drug and will forward his findings to Mr. Novins and the other members. Dr. Eriksson agreed to draft the reasons for approving or denying drugs. This information will be shared with Mr. Novins and the other members. Mr. Novins agreed to discuss the matter with Director, Christopher Winters.

5. **The Board approved the following applicants for licensure as Optometrists:**

Heather Jetton, O.D.

Christina Tu, O.D.

6. **Newsletter Topics!**

Topics to be covered will include co-management and treating glaucoma, the formulary, continuing education, OPR's new licensing system, statistics, etc.

7. **Correspondence:**

The Board reviewed the February 28, 2008 letter from Dr. Morton Silverman requesting approval of continuing education credits covering practice management. The Board voted to deny Dr. Silverman's approval of practice management programs as acceptable CE. The purpose of the continuing education requirement is for licensees to demonstrate competency during the preceding two year period. Continuing education programs or coursework covering business practices are not acceptable topics.

8. **Public Comment**

9. **Other Business Introduced:**

The Board requested a list of all licensees who were approved for the endorsement to treat glaucoma (met the training requirements), and of those who have met the requirement of having diagnosed and co-managed five new patients. The Board would like licenses to indicate that a licensee is qualified for independent practice to treat glaucoma.

Ms. Preston indicated that the new licensing system to be implemented this year would likely provide the ability to add such information. The system would be able to track the information.

The questions on the renewal application concerning the treatment of glaucoma patients will be modified to gather the desired information. Once gathered it would be added to a licensee's record for tracking purposes.

10. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 4, 2008** at 9:00 AM. The following meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2008.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Preston
Unit Administrator
Office of Professional Regulation