

Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee

25 March 2021

Terms of reference

Background

The Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) is responsible under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009) (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory, for ensuring that optometrists are suitably trained and that they practise in a safe, competent and ethical manner. The Board is required to ensure that optometrists holding an endorsement for scheduled medicines have the necessary qualifications and practise in accordance with accepted professional standards.

Under Section 94 of the National Law, the Board may endorse optometrists who have suitable training as qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, supply or use a scheduled medicine or class of scheduled medicines.

Scheduled medicines are substances that are included in a schedule to the current Poisons Standard under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (Cth). The authorities to prescribe scheduled medicines are conferred under State and Territory drugs and poisons legislation and regulations.

The Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee (the Committee) provides advice to the Board in formulating regulatory standards, guidelines and support material for the optometry profession in its use of scheduled medicines.

Terms of reference

At the request of the Board, the Committee will advise the Board on:

- scheduled medicines or classes of medicines that are suitable for optometrists to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, supply or use for the purposes of the practice of optometry
- any guidelines or support materials that might be required to support safe, competent and effective prescribing or administration practice by optometrists, and
- any other matters that the Board may refer from time to time.

Membership

The Committee is to comprise:

- a chairperson who is a Board member or optometrist nominated by the Board
- two optometrists who hold a scheduled medicine endorsement under the National Law or a law of a participating jurisdiction
- a pharmacist
- a medical practitioner who practises as an ophthalmologist
- a medical practitioner with relevant expertise
- an academic or educator in pharmacology, and
- an optometrist who is an academic or educator in optometry.

The Board may appoint additional members as required.

Meetings

The Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee of the Board will meet on an as needs basis in accordance with the needs of the Board, or at least once per year.

Term of office

The term of appointment to membership of the Committee is for a period of three years. The Board may remove or replace a member from the committee when and as it sees fit.

Authority of the Advisory Committee

The Scheduled Medicines Advisory Committee of the Board is established by the Optometry Board of Australia pursuant to Schedule 4, clause 11 of the National Law.

The Committee will report to the Board and carry out its functions at the request of the Board.

Review

These terms of reference apply from 25 March 2021. The Board will review these terms of reference at least every two years.

Last reviewed: 25 March 2021.