

Subject: therapeutics
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I am understandably confused, when original letter to all optoms, mentioned proposal that therapeutic qualification become a requirement for registration, and now we are told that there is no agenda to force optoms to gain this!

My feelings are that because it is an extra, it should merely be an extra endorsement.

The fact that only 20% have this at present, indicates that most don't think it is necessary.

I can see that it would be handy in remote or rural areas, where there is less accessibility to ophthals.

Most optoms I have spoken to report that it is mainly Chlorsig they have prescribed, but of course this is available over the counter now

I don't think that it is a reasonable expectation for optoms in practice to do it as it is a huge commitment of time and money-many couldn't afford either.

It would lead to a greater shortage of optoms if they took time out to do the course-it is difficult to get locums at present, esp on the Mornington Peninsula where I work, and also country areas.

Non-clinical optoms shouldn't have to do the course either, as not relevant.

I think the best solution is to continue to have 2 levels of registration-it would be like a specialty. It would be an optional extra qualification.

In summary, I think it is an unreasonable expectation for all to have therapeutics endorsement, and it would force many to retire earlier than planned (including myself) if made compulsory.

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