

Subject: therapeutics and registration.
Date: Tuesday, 8 February 2011 11:49:15 PM

Dear Optometry Board

I am an optometrist who practices in rural Australia, who has a masters of optometry plus a post graduate therapeutics qualification. I know that many experienced optometrists who practice in regional Australia, do not have therapeutics qualifications and yet practice optometry and emergency ocular care to much greater depth of skill and regularity than city counterparts. Due to the additional costs and time away from their practices to undertake therapeutics many of these great clinicians may have chosen or chose not to do therapeutics. This is more so if they are in the later part of their career.

It would seem a great injustice to these practitioners and to the communities they serve to put any time limits on their ability to continue to practice without having completed therapeutics.

As to the question of overseas students or practitioners and whether they should have therapeutics standards as part of their entry level examinations or standards of practice, I do not currently have strong opinion. Perhaps they should or have defined period in which to undertake study to achieve those competencies, similar to the registration restrictions for some overseas medical doctors.

Yours Sincerely

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