

Subject: therapeutics
Date: Thursday, 3 February 2011 6:16:52 AM

I am Australian registered optometrist, I do not believe all optometrists should be forced to acquire the therapeutics qualification. Having two levels of registration would not be a problem assuming that practitioners can undertake the therapeutics training at any time. We already have optometrists who have specialist skills in areas that they are interested in such as sports vision, contact lenses etc. The key to maintaining a high level of service to the public is to ensure that optometrists have a high level of **diagnostic** skill, and are free to develop further skills in any areas of interest. If only 800 optometrists out of 4000 have opted to take the therapeutics training it would suggest that most optometrists are not interested in moving towards a general medical role. Clearly this will change with time as current students are choosing optometry in the knowledge that there is a therapeutic aspect to their careers.

- 1/ There is no benefit in requiring **all** optometrists to undertake therapeutic endorsement.
- 2/ This is an unreasonable expectation on all optometrists currently registered.
- 3/ no
- 4/ 5 years if you proceed with compulsory therapeutics
- 5/ no
- 6/ Yes (if you are going to make all practicing optometrists undertake therapeutics)
- 7/ Impediment is that not all qualified optometrists wish to move in this direction and should not be penalised for this. Overcome by allowing different areas of speciality to exist in optometry as in many other professions.

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