

Subject: Therapeutics and optometry  
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Optometry is already established as a primary eye care provider as defined in our Medicare agreement. Therapeutic qualification further enhances that role and therefore is of significant public benefit.

This enhancement should be evolutionary in same way that the use of local anesthetics and mydriatic agents were slowly embraced by the profession. No registration restriction was placed on practitioners then. Currently the use of diagnostic agents is almost universal.

This precedent should apply to therapeutic qualification. By 2024 it highly likely that at least 75% of optometrists will be qualified without any legal enforcement.

General registration should simply record those optometrists having that qualification in exactly the same way that qualifications are now recorded.

The board should not apply any restriction or discrimination to optometrists without therapeutic qualification at any stage. Over time as older optometrists retire or pass on 100% will be qualified.

I trust my comments are of assistance.

Reg Bennett Optometrist & Director Campbelltown Eye Care SA