

Subject: comments
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1. there is public benefit in having therapeutic endorsed optometrist. for example.. my last px was working on a ceiling.. had a piece of foreign body lodged in his eye.. he quickly came to see us is we could remove.. which we all can naturally extract.. it was good patient care to give him a prophylactic antibiotic cover esp when he was concerned of open wound infection. If i didnt have the therapeutic skills, i would have had to send him to the local GP who has closed his books etc.. patients develop respect for our profession to have therapeutics under our belt..

2. i think its a reasonable expectation for all optometrist be able to treat all minor infections, inflammations and glaucoma followups.. its all within our comfort zone of skill level.. i seem to think that at uni we were trained as pseduo-ophthalmogists and when we come out ,, we become 'refracting monkeys' for the chain stores.. i feel that this can demoralise our profession. therapeutics will give us back public respect.

3. i believe that all optometrists should be therapeutically endorsed.. and it should have a deadline say in 5 years that all optoms must be therapeutically qualified.. since its a one year course..

5. to be consistent with all of our grads , overseas trained grads should also do the post grad course

6.i believe that if you are an Optometrist, whether you are practising or not , if you require a licence then you must be registered for therapeutics. as once you have the licence you are free reins , since no-one will have control whether you are admin or practising optometrist

7. the older optometrists may not be able to pick up the current model of learning since they havent studied for many years. they may find the therapeutic course very tough, so it may need to be made longer as there is too much assumed knowledge which the the practicing less than 10 year optoms are at an advantage..

In general. having all optometrists therapeutically qualified will lift the morale of optometry and will only be benefit to the general community esp in rural or remote areas.

many thanks .

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