

## Authority

This registration standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) on 27 April 2012 pursuant to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory, with approval taking effect from 1 December 2014.

## Summary

This registration standard specifies the qualifications for general registration under section 53 of the National Law from 1 December 2014.

The qualifications include eligibility for endorsement for scheduled medicines under section 94 of the National Law.

## Scope

This registration standard applies only to **initial** applications for general registration from 1 December 2014. The standard does not apply to renewal of registration.

## Qualifications

An applicant will be qualified for general registration (section 53 of the National Law) if the applicant has successfully completed **one** of the following:

1. an approved program of study<sup>1</sup> that includes training in ocular therapeutics
2. a qualification that the Board considers to be substantially equivalent, or based on similar competencies to an approved program of study that includes training in ocular therapeutics
3. Competency in Optometry Examination (COE) and Assessment of Competence in Ocular Therapeutics (ACOT)<sup>2</sup> for overseas trained optometrists with a qualification in ocular therapeutics obtained overseas, or
4. Competency in Optometry Examination (COE) and an approved program of postgraduate study in ocular therapeutics for overseas trained optometrists who do not hold qualifications in ocular therapeutics.

1 As published under the accreditation section of the Board's [website](#)

2 Conducted by the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand ([www.ocanz.org](http://www.ocanz.org))

## Notation on the register of optometrists

Optometrists who hold general registration with the Board at 1 December 2014 but who are *not* qualified for a scheduled medicines endorsement will have a notation on the register of optometrists to indicate this.

The notation will be removed on the successful completion of an approved postgraduate program of postgraduate study in ocular therapeutics.

The notation will state:

*The optometrist is not qualified for endorsement for scheduled medicines and is not able to prescribe Schedule 4 medicines for the treatment of conditions of the eye.*

## Definition

**Initial applications** for the purpose of this standard, initial applications are those made from an optometrist who has *not been previously registered* under the National Law or corresponding prior Act.

Those who have been previously registered (i.e. lapsed registrants) will be considered qualified for general registration in accordance with section 53(d) of the National Law.

## Review

This standard will commence on 1 December 2014 and will be reviewed by the Board at least every three years from the date of commencement.