

## Drugs which may be used by certain optometrists

### Approved drugs.

(a) *Administration and prescription of pharmaceutical agents.* Optometrists who are certified to prescribe and administer pharmaceutical agents for therapeutic purposes under section 4.1 of the Optometric Practice and Licensure Act (35 P. S. § 244.4a), may prescribe and administer the drugs listed in subsection (b) in their practice of optometry.

(b) *Allowable pharmaceutical products.* Optometrists may prescribe and administer the following pharmaceutical products or the A-rated generic therapeutically equivalent drug:

- (1) Topical anesthetics.
  - (i) Proparacaine.
  - (ii) Benoxinate.
  - (iii) Tetracaine.
- (2) Topical ocular lubricants.
- (3) Topical ophthalmic dyes and stains.
  - (i) Fluorescein.
  - (ii) Rose Bengal.
  - (iii) Fluorexen.
- (4) Topical hyperosmotic agents.
- (5) Autonomic drugs—topical only.
  - (i) Cholinergic agonists.
    - (A) Pilocarpine nitrate and pilocarpine hydrochloride—diagnostic use only.
    - (B) Physostigmine.
    - (C) DFP (diisopropylfluorophosphate).
    - (D) Echothiopate.
  - (ii) Cholinergic antagonists.
    - (A) Homatropine hydrobromide.
    - (B) Tropicamide.
    - (C) Atropine sulfate.

- (D) Cyclopentolate hydrochloride.
- (E) Scopolamine hydrobromide.
- (iii) Adrenergic agonists.
  - (A) Hydroxyamphetamine hydrobromide.
  - (B) Phenylephrine hydrochloride.
  - (C) Tetrahydrazoline.
  - (D) Nefazoline.
  - (E) Oxymetazoline.
- (iv) Adrenergic antagonists—diagnostic use only.
  - (A) Dapiprazole.
  - (B) Thymoxamine.
- (6) Nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs—topical only.
  - (i) Diclofenac.
  - (ii) Ketorolac.
  - (iii) Flurbiprofen.
  - (iv) Suprofin.
- (7) Antimicrobial agents.
  - (i) Antibacterial—topical use only.
    - (A) Cell wall inhibitors.
      - (I) Bacitracin.
      - (II) Cephalosporins.
      - (III) Penicillins.
      - (IV) Vancomycin.
    - (B) Protein synthesis inhibitors.
      - (I) Aminoglycosides.

- (II) Tetracycline.
  - (III) Erythromycin.
  - (IV) Chloramphenicol.
- (C) Intermediary metabolism inhibitors.
- (I) Sodium sulfacetamide and sulfisoxazole.
  - (II) Trimethoprim.
- (D) DNA synthesis inhibitors.
- (I) Ciprofloxacin.
  - (II) Norfloxacin.
  - (III) Ofloxacin.
  - (IV) Levofloxacin.
- (E) Cell membrane permeability.
- (I) Polymyxin B.
  - (II) Gramicidin.
- (ii) Antibacterial—oral.
- (A) Cell wall inhibitors.
- (I) Penicillins—including in combination with clavulanic acid.
  - (II) Cephalosporins.
    - (-1-) First generation—cephalexin and cefadroxil.
    - (-2-) Second generation—cefaclor and cefuroxime.
- (B) Protein synthesis inhibitors.
- (I) Tetracycline.
  - (II) Doxycycline.
  - (III) Erythromycin.
  - (IV) Azithromycin.

(iii) Antivirals—topical only.

(A) Idoxurine.

(B) Vidarabine.

(C) Trifluridine.

(iv) Antivirals—oral.

(A) Acyclovir.

(B) Valacyclovir.

(C) Famciclovir.

(v) Antifungal and antiparasitic—topical only.

(A) Amphotericin B, nystatin, natamycin.

(B) Miconazole, ketoconazole, clotrimazole.

(C) Thiabendazole.

(D) Neomycin and polymyxin B.

(E) Paromycin.

(8) Analgesic drugs—oral and topical.

(i) Analgesic drugs—oral.

(A) Codeine in combination with acetaminophen or aspirin.

(B) Hydrocodone.

(C) Pentazocine.

(D) Propoxyphene.

(E) Tramadol.

(ii) Antihistamines and mast cell stabilizers—topical only.

(A) Pheniramine.

(B) Pyrilamine.

(C) Antazoline.

- (D) Levocabastine.
- (E) Cromolyn.
- (F) Nedocromil.
- (G) Lodoxamide.
- (H) Olopatadine.
- (I) Pemirolast potassium.
- (J) Emedastine difumarate.
- (K) Azelastine hydrochloride.
- (L) Ketotifen fumerate.

## **Additional Drugs Approved by Secretary of Health**

**April 5, 2003**

### **Drugs approved for use by all therapeutically-certified optometrists:**

#### Topical Steroids

Prednisolone  
Medrysone  
Fluorometholone  
Hydrocortisone  
Dexamethasone  
Rimexolone  
Loteprednol  
Triamcinolone

#### Oral Steroids

Prednisone  
Methylprednisolone

Commercially-available combination of drugs approved for use by optometrists.

### **Drugs approved for use by optometrists certified to treat GLAUCOMA**

#### Beta Adrenergic Receptor Blockers

##### *Non-Selective*

Timolol  
Levobunolol  
Metipranolol  
Carteolol

##### *Selective*

Betaxolol  
Levobetaxolol

#### Cholinergic Receptor Agonists

##### *Direct Acting*

Pilocarpine  
Carbachol  
*Indirect Acting*  
Physostigmine  
Demecarium  
Echothiophate Iodide

Adrenergic Receptor Agonists

*Non-Selective*  
Epinephrine  
Dipivefrin  
*Selective Alpha 2 Agonists*  
Apraclonidine  
Brimonidine

Topical Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors

Dorzolamide  
Brinzolamide

Prostaglandin Analogs

*Eicosanoid Derivatives*  
Latanoprost  
Travoprost  
Bimatoprost  
*Docosanoid Derivatives*  
Unoprostone

Commercially-available combination of drugs approved for use by optometrists.

**June 28, 2003**

Topical Antibacterial  
Providone-iodine (Betadine)

**October 4, 2003**

Topical Solutions\*  
Maxifloxacin (Vigamox)  
Gatifloxacin (Zymar)  
Cyclosporine Ophthalmic Emulsion

\*Topical solutions and products only, not oral or injectable formulations.

**March 2004**

The Pennsylvania State Board of Optometry recently clarified that IQUIX, a new commercially available concentration of levofloxacin, is available for prescription by optometrists.

**May 22, 2004**

Elestat (epinastine HCL ophthalmic solution)

**September 16, 2006**

Nepafenac (Nevenac®) ophthalmic solution  
Bromfenac (Xibrom®) ophthalmic solution

**December 8, 2007**

Zylet (Loteprednol Etabonate/Tobramycin combination) ophthalmic suspension

Lissamine green diagnostic dye  
Latisse

**September 26, 2009**  
Besifloxacin (Besivance®)