

(C) THE COURSE IN PHARMACOLOGY REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL:

(1) BE OF AT LEAST THE LENGTH THAT THE BOARD ESTABLISHES BUT NOT LESS THAN 70 COURSE HOURS;

(2) PLACE EMPHASIS ON:

(I) TOPICAL APPLICATION OF OCULAR DIAGNOSTIC PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXAMINING AND ANALYZING OCULAR FUNCTIONS; AND

(II) ALLERGIC REACTIONS TO OCULAR DIAGNOSTIC PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS; AND

(3) BE GIVEN BY AN INSTITUTION THAT IS:

(I) ACCREDITED BY A REGIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION THAT IS RECOGNIZED OR APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION; AND

(II) APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

(D) THE BOARD SHALL REVOKE THE CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATION TO ADMINISTER TOPICAL OCULAR DIAGNOSTIC PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS OF ANY LICENSED OPTOMETRIST WHO DOES NOT ANNUALLY TAKE A COURSE OF STUDY, APPROVED BY THE BOARD, THAT RELATES TO THE USE OF THOSE AGENTS.

(E) CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFICATION UNDER THIS SECTION AUTHORIZES THE LICENSED OPTOMETRIST WHO IS CERTIFIED UNDER THIS SECTION TO ADMINISTER A TOPICAL OCULAR DIAGNOSTIC PHARMACEUTICAL AGENT TO A PATIENT FOR DIAGNOSTIC PURPOSES BUT NOT FOR PURPOSES OF TREATMENT.

(F) EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SECTION FOR DIAGNOSTIC PURPOSES, AN OPTOMETRIST MAY NOT ADMINISTER DRUGS OR MEDICINE TO ANY PATIENT EXCEPT FOR DIAGNOSTIC PURPOSES.

(G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLECT AND REPORT STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENCES OF NEGATIVE REACTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION BY OPTOMETRISTS OF TOPICAL OCULAR DIAGNOSTIC PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, after consultation with the State Board of Examiners in Optometry shall, by regulation under the Administrative Procedure Act, authorize the use of specific drugs or medicine by licensed optometrists within 3 months after the effective date of this Act.