Virginia Regulatory Town Hall

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Exempt Action Proposed Regulation
Agency Background Document

Agency name	Board of Optometry, Department of Health Professions
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	18VAC105-20-10 et seq.
Regulation title	Regulations Governing the Practice of Optometry
Action title	Amended treatment guidelines and formulary for therapeutic pharmaceutical agents added to Chapter 20
Document preparation date	8/26/04

When a regulatory action is exempt from executive branch review pursuant to § 2.2-4002 or § 2.2-4006 of the Administrative Process Act (APA), the agency is encouraged to provide information to the public on the Regulatory Town Hall using this form.

Note: While posting this form on the Town Hall is optional, the agency must comply with requirements of the Virginia Register Act, the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*, and Executive Orders 21 (02) and 58 (99).

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of all regulatory changes, including the rationale behind such changes. Alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

The Board of Optometry is amending Chapter 20 under an exemption from the Administrative Process Act and under a process specified in § 54.1-3223 of the Code of Virginia. In the promulgation of a regulatory action to amend the treatment guidelines for the use of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents (TPA) and the formulary of drugs that can be used by TPA certified optometrists, the Board is required to receive a recommendation from a TPA Formulary Committee (which includes optometrists, ophthalmologists, and a pharmacist), notify all TPA-certified optometrists and other interested parties, and send notice to the Registrar. Proposed and final regulations must be published in the *Register of Regulations* and a public hearing held on the proposal prior to final adoption.

In the treatment guidelines (section 46), the proposed amendments from what currently is found in section 60 of Chapter 30 are: 1) deletion of the word “anterior” after uveitis to permit the

treatment of posterior uveitis; 2) the deletion of “acute” before angle closure glaucoma; and 3) the addition of treatment guidelines for use of oral immunosuppressive agents.

In the formulary of TPA drugs (section 47), the Board has moved from a listing of specific drugs on the formulary, as currently stated in section 70 of Chapter 30, to a listing of categories of drugs that may be procured, administered, and prescribed. The current formulary references a listing of topically applied Schedule VI drugs found in the chapter on ophthalmic agents in *Drug Facts and Comparisons* and lists the specific narcotic and non-narcotic analgesics in Schedules III and VI that can be used. The proposed formulary states that all oral narcotic and non-narcotic analgesics in Schedules III, IV and VI may be used and lists the categories of topically or orally administered Schedule VI drugs that can be administered or prescribed. The Formulary Committee (with a majority of optometrists) voted to eliminate immunosuppressive agents from the categories of orally administered drugs, but the Board voted to include that category, as well as all anti-infective, anti-inflammatory, anti-allergy, anti-fungal, anti-glaucoma, decongestant, and aminocaproic acid drugs.

The current treatment guidelines and TPA formulary found in Chapter 30 are being repealed and replaced with the addition of sections 46 and 47 in Chapter 20.

Family impact

Assess the impact of this regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.

There is no impact of this regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.