

Board of Optometry

FINAL EXEMPT AMENDED REGULATIONS

Promulgated under § 54.1-3223 of the Code of Virginia

(Changes in the proposed exempt regulations are bracketed.)

18VAC105-20-46. Treatment guidelines for TPA~~-certification~~ certified optometrists.

A. TPA-certified optometrists may treat diseases and abnormal conditions of the ~~following structures of~~ the human eye and its adnexa which may be ~~appropriately~~ treated with ~~medically appropriate~~ pharmaceutical agents as referenced in 18VAC105-20-47. ~~The adnexa is defined as~~ conjoined, subordinate or immediately associated anatomic parts of the human eye, including eyelids and eyebrows.]

~~1. Lids and adnexa;~~

~~2. Lacrimal system;~~

~~3. Cornea;~~

~~4. Conjunctiva; and~~

~~5. Episclera.]~~

B. In addition, the following may be treated:

1. Glaucoma (excluding the treatment of congenital and infantile glaucoma). Treatment of angle closure shall follow the ~~definition and~~ protocol prescribed in subsection C of this section.

2. Ocular-related post-operative care in cooperation with patient's surgeon.

3. Ocular trauma to the above tissues as in subsection A of this section.

4. Uveitis.

5. Anaphylactic shock (limited to the administration of intramuscular epinephrine).

C. The [definition and] protocol for treatment of angle closure glaucoma shall be as follows:

1. As used in this chapter, angle closure glaucoma shall mean a closed angle in the involved eye with significantly increased intraocular pressure, and corneal microcystic edema.

2. Treatment shall be limited to the initiation of immediate emergency care with appropriate pharmaceutical agents as prescribed by this chapter;

3. Once the diagnosis of [acute] angle closure glaucoma has been established by the optometrist, the ophthalmologist to whom the patient is to be referred should be contacted immediately;

4. If there are no medical contraindications, an oral osmotic agent may be administered as well as an oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and any other medically accepted, Schedule III, IV or VI, oral antiglaucomic agent as may become available; and

5. Proper topical medications as appropriate may also be administered by the optometrist.

D. An oral Schedule VI immunosuppressive agent shall only be used when 1) the condition fails to appropriately respond to any other treatment regimen; 2) such agent is prescribed in consultation with a physician; and 3) treatment with such agent includes monitoring of systemic effects.

18VAC105-20-47. Therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.

A. A TPA-certified optometrist, acting within the scope of his practice, may procure, administer and prescribe [medically appropriate] therapeutic pharmaceutical agents (or any therapeutically appropriate combination thereof) to treat diseases and abnormal conditions of the human eye and its adnexa within the following categories:

1. Oral analgesics - Schedule III, IV and VI narcotic and non-narcotic agents.

2. Topically administered Schedule VI agents:

a. Alpha-adrenergic blocking agents;

b. Anesthetic (including esters and amides);

c. Anti-allergy (including antihistamines and mast cell stabilizers);

d. Anti-fungal;

e. Anti-glaucoma (including carbonic anhydrase inhibitors and hyperosmotics);

f. Anti-infective (including antibiotics and antivirals);

g. Anti-inflammatory;

h. Cycloplegics and mydriatics;

i. Decongestants; and

j. Immunosuppressive agents.

3. Orally administered Schedule VI agents:

a. Aminocaproic acids (including antifibrinolytic agents);

b. Anti-allergy (including antihistamines and leukotriene inhibitors);

c. Anti-fungal;

d. Anti-glaucoma (including carbonic anhydrase inhibitors and hyperosmotics);

e. Anti-infective (including antibiotics and antivirals);

f. Anti-inflammatory (including steroidal and non-steroidal);

g. Decongestants; and

h. Immunosuppressive agents.

B. Schedule I, II and V drugs are excluded from the list of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.

C. Over-the-counter topical and oral medications for the treatment of the eye and its adnexa may be procured for administration, administered, prescribed or dispensed.

I certify that this regulation is full, true, and correctly dated.

Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D.

Executive Director
Virginia Board of Optometry

Date:_____