



Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board

Te Poari o ngā Kaimātai Whatu me ngā Kaiwhakarato Mōhiti

PROPOSED OPTOMETRIST SCOPES OF PRACTICE 2017

Pursuant to sections 11 and 12 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act, the Board specifies two optometrist scopes of practice, and has prescribed qualifications for each scope of practice, as follows:

General Scope of Practice

An optometrist registered in the general scope of practice provides evidence-based comprehensive eye health and vision care in accordance with the HPCA Act.

The “practice of optometry” includes:

- prescribing any ophthalmic appliance, optical appliance, or ophthalmic medical device intended for remedial or cosmetic purposes or for the correction of a defect of sight;
- assessing, diagnosing, treating and managing conditions affecting the eye and its appendages;
- prescribing medicines whose sale and supply is restricted by law to prescription by authorised prescribers;
- reporting or giving advice in an ophthalmic capacity, using the knowledge, skills, attitudes and competence initially attained for the primary optometry qualification and built upon in postgraduate and continuing clinical education, wherever there could be an issue of patient health or wellbeing;
- signing any certificate required for statutory purposes, such as driver licensing eyesight certificates;
- holding out to the public, or representing in any manner that one is authorised to practise optometry in New Zealand.

The practice of optometry goes wider than clinical optometry, and includes teaching, research, optometric or eye health management, in hospitals, clinics, general optometric practices and community and institutional contexts, whether paid or voluntary.

Additionally, clinical practice is defined as any work undertaken by an optometrist that relates to the care of an individual patient. Non-clinical practice is defined as any work undertaken by an optometrist that does not relate to the care of an individual patient.

Prescribed qualifications for registration in the General Scope of Practice

The optometrist must satisfy all the requirements from one of the following options:

- hold a primary optometry degree from a New Zealand or Australian university accredited by the Board for the purposes of registration in New Zealand, and published on the Board’s website (Pathway 1 – ‘General’); **or**
- hold a primary optometry degree from an overseas university accredited by the Board for the purposes of registration in New Zealand and published on the Board’s

website, **and** have an offer of employment to work as an educator in optometry in a New Zealand education institution (Pathway 2 – ‘Educator’); **or**

- hold a primary optometry degree from an overseas university accredited by the Board for the purposes of registration in New Zealand and published on the Board’s website, **and** have completed a Board-accredited therapeutics qualification, **and** have an offer of employment to work as an educator in optometry in a New Zealand education institution (Pathway 3 – ‘Prescribing Educator’); **or**
- hold General Registration in Australia.

Provisional Scope of Practice (time limited)

An optometrist registered in the provisional scope of practice provides evidence-based comprehensive eye health and vision care (excluding the prescribing of therapeutic medicines), in accordance with the HPCA Act, works under supervision, and is in the process of completing Board-accredited training to prescribe therapeutic medicines.

The Provisional Scope of Practice is time-limited and registration in this scope of practice will end after three years, or other period as specified by the Board from time to time, or on the successful completion of a Board-accredited therapeutics qualification leading to registration in the General Scope of Practice.

Evidence of enrolment in a Board-accredited therapeutics course will be required at the time of registration.

The optometrist’s registration may be subject to conditions as set out in section 22(3) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

These conditions may include:

- a requirement to practise under supervision;
- a requirement to practise under oversight;
- that the practitioner may not perform certain tasks, or that those tasks are only performed under certain circumstances;
- a requirements to practise only in a stated capacity, for example as an employee or a nominated person or a person of a stated class;
- a requirements to practise only for a specified period;
- a requirements to get one or more stated qualifications or further experience of a stated kind;
- a requirements to comply with any condition the Board believes to be necessary to protect the safety of the public.

Prescribed qualifications for registration in the Provisional Scope of Practice

The optometrist must provide evidence of:

- A pass in the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) Competency in Optometry Examination (Pathway 4 – ‘Provisional’).