

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

THE USE & PRESCRIBING OF DRUGS IN OPTOMETRIC PRACTICE

Name:	The Use & Prescribing of Drugs in Optometric Practice
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Optometrists use diagnostic and therapeutic drugs in the course of providing patient care. Optometrists in Saskatchewan have the authority to prescribe drugs to manage patients with diseases and disorders of the vision system. Saskatchewan optometrists can prescribe Schedule I (as designated by the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy) drugs for the treatment of eye disease. A member may not prescribe any drug unless they have successfully completed the relevant certification approved by Council.

Every time a member prescribes a drug, the member shall record the following in the patient's health record:

- The date of the prescription
- Details of the prescription, including the drug prescribed, dosage and route of administration
- The number or repeats authorized if any
- Details of the counseling provided by the member
- A detailed treatment and management plan along with appropriate follow up care

24-hour per day access to appropriate care must be provided while the patient is being treated with prescription drugs for acute and urgent vision conditions. This may include:

- Providing patients with home or cell number, or
- Arrangement for care through available colleagues, or
- The patient having reasonable access to a hospital or alternate medical facility emergency services