

**Protocol for Annual Review of the Formulary
of Prescription Medicines for Optometrists**

Background: In 2006 the Optometry Formulary Committee was repealed by the Vermont Legislature. The successor legislation at 26 V.S.A. 1724a provides:

At least annually, the director, with the advice of the board of optometry and in consultation with the commissioner of health, shall review and update the formulary of prescription medicines optometrists may use in a manner consistent with the optometry scope of practice and training. The director shall establish written protocols designed to ensure both meaningful and timely consultation with the board and the commissioner of health and other experts whose input the director finds useful.

Protocol:

1. The Office of Professional Regulation shall maintain an up to date formulary which may be found on the web page dedicated to the profession of optometry. The formulary will show which drugs, including the concentrations and strengths thereof, are approved for use in optometric practice by authorized optometrists. Notice of this protocol and the way to request changes to formulary shall be posted on the same web site.
2. Any person who wishes a change to the formulary may submit a request to the Board of Optometry (“Board”), specifically stating the name of the drug and the reason why it should be added or removed from the formulary. Upon receipt of any request, a copy of the request will be sent to the Director of the Office of professional Regulation (“Director”) who will send a copy to the Commissioner of Health (“Commissioner”) or his or her designee as set forth below, and to the chairs of the Ophthalmology and Pharmacology Departments of the University of Vermont School of Medicine. Any comments by any person or group of persons on any request to change the formulary shall be submitted in writing to the Director within 60 days of their receipt of such request. The Board shall submit comments to the Director on all requests they receive within the same 60 day time frame.
3. At least annually, the Director will review the formulary and may make changes after proper consultation as described in paragraph 2 above, and in accordance with protocols. The Director may approve changes to the formulary at any time pursuant to

any requests made under paragraph 2 above, after proper consultation and in accordance with protocols.

4. If the Commissioner finds there is any reason to consult with other experts before the Director makes a final decision to approve a drug, the Director shall be informed forthwith; and the Commissioner shall report the results of such consultation to the Director within the 60 day comment period.

5. The Director may also consult with any expert whose expertise may help in the decision to add or not add the requested drug to the formulary.

6. The Director shall maintain a list of additional experts and stakeholders to inform of any request to change the formulary. The Director shall give these experts and stakeholders at least 60 days to comment on any notice of a proposed change to the formulary.

7. If deemed necessary, the Director may convene a public meeting for the purpose of gathering public comment and information useful in deciding whether to make a change to the formulary.

8. After review and a determination that he or she has sufficient information to make an informed decision, the Director will determine whether a change to the formulary is necessary. In determining such necessity, the director shall seek to determine, among other things: whether the drug can be used safely by optometrists for treatment of the eye and adnexa, given the optometrists' training and education; the drug's likely utilization frequency and any existing alternatives; and the drug's systemic and other potential risks.

9. The director shall consult with the Commissioner on any proposed determination as outlined above at least 10 days prior to its issuance and may modify the final determination based on such consultation.

10. The proposed and final determinations, with the reasons therefore, shall be in writing.

11. Changes to the formulary will be kept on file with the Office and posted on the Board's website.