

154.1 Optometry certified licensed optometrists therapeutically certified optometrists.

For the purpose of this subtitle the following classes of persons shall be deemed to be engaged in the practice of optometry:

1. Persons employing any means other than the use of drugs, medicine or surgery for the measurement of the visual power and visual efficiency of the human eye; the prescribing and adapting of lenses, prisms and contact lenses, and the using or employing of visual training or ocular exercise, for the aid, relief or correction of vision.
2. Persons who allow the public to use any mechanical device for such purpose.
3. Persons who publicly profess to be optometrists and to assume the duties incident to said profession.

Certified licensed optometrists may employ cycloplegics, mydriatics and topical anesthetics as diagnostic agents topically applied to determine the condition of the human eye for proper optometric practice or referral for treatment to a person licensed under chapter 148 or 150A. A certified licensed optometrist is an optometrist who is licensed to practice optometry in this state and who is certified by the board of optometry examiners to use diagnostic agents. A certified licensed optometrist shall be provided with a distinctive certificate by the board which shall be displayed for viewing by the patients of the optometrist.

Therapeutically certified optometrists may employ all diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents for the purpose of diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa pursuant to this paragraph, excluding the use of injections other than to counteract an anaphylactic reaction, and notwithstanding section 147.107, may without charge supply any of the above pharmaceuticals to commence a course of therapy. Therapeutically certified optometrists may prescribe oral steroids for a period not to exceed fourteen days without consultation with a primary care physician. Therapeutically certified optometrists shall not prescribe oral Imuran or oral Methotrexate. Therapeutically certified optometrists may be authorized, where reasonable and appropriate, by rule of the board, to employ new diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents approved by the United States food and drug administration on or after July 1, 2002, for the diagnosis and treatment of the human eye and adnexa. The board shall not be required to adopt rules relating to topical pharmaceutical agents, oral antimicrobial agents, oral antihistamines, oral antiglaucoma agents, and oral analgesic agents. Superficial foreign bodies may be removed from the human eye and adnexa. The therapeutic efforts of a therapeutically certified optometrist are intended for the purpose of examination, diagnosis, and treatment of visual defects, abnormal conditions, and diseases of the human eye and adnexa, for proper optometric practice or referral for consultation or treatment to persons licensed under chapter 148 or 150A. A therapeutically certified optometrist is an optometrist who is licensed to practice optometry in this state and who is certified by the board of optometry examiners to use the agents and procedures authorized pursuant to this paragraph. A therapeutically certified optometrist shall be provided with a distinctive certificate by the board which shall be displayed for viewing by the patients of the optometrist.

[S13, § 2583-g; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, § **2574**; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 154.1]

85 Acts, ch 248, § 1; 87 Acts, ch 119, § 1; 91 Acts, ch 9, §1; 2002 Acts, ch 1026, §1