

CHAPTER 44
OPTOMETRISTS DIAGNOSIS

S. F. 93

AN ACT relating to the use of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents by optometrists.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section one hundred fifty-four point one (154.1), Code 1979, is amended by adding the following new unnumbered paragraph:

NEW UNNUMBERED PARAGRAPH. 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 one hundred forty-eight (148) or one hundred fifty A (150A) of the Code. 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.

Sec. 2. Section one hundred fifty-four point three (154.3), Code 1979, is amended by adding the following new subsections:

NEW SUBSECTION. A person applying to be licensed as an optometrist after January 1, 1980, shall also apply to be a certified licensed optometrist and shall, in addition to satisfactorily completing all requirements for a license to practice optometry, satisfactorily complete a course consisting of at least one hundred contact hours in pharmacology and receive clinical training as it applies to optometry with particular emphasis on the topical application of diagnostic agents to the human eye for the purpose of examination of the human eye, and the diagnosis of conditions of the human eye, at an institution accredited by a regional or professional accreditation organization which is recognized or approved by the council on postsecondary accreditation or the United States office of education.

NEW SUBSECTION. A person licensed as an optometrist prior to the effective date of this Act who applies to be a certified licensed optometrist shall first satisfactorily complete a course consisting of at least one hundred contact hours in pharmacology as it applies to optometry including clinical training as it applies to optometry with particular emphasis on the topical application of diagnostic agents to the human eye and possible adverse reactions thereto, for the purpose of examination of the human eye and the diagnosis of conditions of the human eye, provided by an institution accredited by a regional or professional accreditation organization which is recognized or approved by the council on postsecondary accreditation or the United States office of education, and approved by the board of optometry examiners.

NEW SUBSECTION. In addition to the examination required by section one hundred fifty-four point three (154.3), subsection three (3) of the Code, a person applying to be a certified licensed optometrist shall also pass an examination prescribed by the optometry examiners in the subjects of physiology and pathology appropriate to the use of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents and diagnosis of conditions of the human eye, and pharmacology including systemic effects of ophthalmic diagnostic pharmaceutical agents and the possible adverse reactions thereto, authorized for use by optometrists by section one hundred fifty-four point one (154.1) of the Code.

Sec. 3. Chapter one hundred fifty-four (154), Code 1979, is amended by adding the following new section:

NEW SECTION. A certified licensed optometrist employing diagnostic pharmaceutical agents as authorized by this Act shall be held to the same standard of care in the use of such agents and in diagnosis as is common to persons licensed under chapter one hundred forty-eight (148) or one hundred fifty A (150A) of the Code in this state.

Sec. 4. Section one hundred fifty-five point twenty-two (155.22), Code 1979, is amended to read as follows:

155.22 EXCEPTIONS. Sections 155.20 and 155.21 do not apply to sales by wholesalers of drugs and medicines to licensed physicians, dentists, podiatrists or veterinarians or to sales by wholesalers to certified licensed optometrists of those diagnostic pharmaceutical agents which are authorized for use by certified licensed optometrists pursuant to this Act.

Sec. 5. Section one hundred fifty-five point twenty-six (155.26), Code 1979, is amended by adding the following new unnumbered paragraph:

NEW UNNUMBERED PARAGRAPH. This section shall not apply to the possession by a certified licensed optometrist of those diagnostic agents which are authorized for use by certified licensed optometrists pursuant to this Act. The dispensing by pharmacists to certified licensed optometrists of those diagnostic agents which are authorized for use by certified licensed optometrists pursuant to this Act shall be permitted.

Sec. 6. This Act is effective January 1, 1980.

Approved June 8, 1979