

CHAPTER 1109

PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY — ADMINISTRATION OF INJECTIONS

H.F. 310

AN ACT relating to the practice of optometry.

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

Section 1. [Section 154.1, subsection 3](#), Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

3. a. An optometrist licensed under [this chapter](#) 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 subsection](#), ~~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. A licensed optometrist may perform minor surgical procedures and use medications for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, disorders, and conditions of the eye and adnexa. A license to practice optometry under [this chapter](#) does not authorize the performance of surgical procedures which require the use of injectable or general anesthesia, moderate sedation, penetration of the globe, or the use of ophthalmic lasers for the purpose of ophthalmic surgery within or upon the globe. The removal of pterygia and Salzmann's nodules, incisional corneal refractive surgery, and strabismus surgery are prohibited.

b. (1) A licensed optometrist may administer only the following injections:

(a) Sub-conjunctival injections for the medical treatment of the eye.

(b) Intra-lesional injections for the treatment of chalazia.

(c) Botulinum toxin to the muscles of facial expression innervated by the facial nerve, including for cosmetic purposes.

(d) Injections to counteract an anaphylactic reaction.

(2) A licensed optometrist shall not administer any injection prior to receiving approval from the board.

(3) The board shall not approve the use of injections other than to counteract an anaphylactic reaction unless the licensed optometrist demonstrates to the board sufficient educational or clinical training from a college or university accredited by a regional or professional accreditation organization which is recognized or approved by the council for higher education accreditation or by the United States department of education, or clinical training equivalent to clinical training offered by such an institution. Training for the administration and side effects of injection treatment for chalazia and of botulinum toxin shall be required before a licensed optometrist may administer such injections. The board shall adopt rules regarding training required pursuant to this subparagraph and approve training providers.

c. A licensed optometrist may employ and, notwithstanding [section 147.107](#), supply pharmaceutical-delivering contact lenses for the purpose of treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa. For purposes of this paragraph, "pharmaceutical-delivering contact lenses" means contact lenses that contain one or more therapeutic pharmaceutical agents authorized for employment by [this section](#) for the purpose of treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa and that deliver such agents into the wearer's eye.

~~e.~~ d. A licensed optometrist may prescribe oral steroids for a period not to exceed fourteen days without consultation with a physician.

~~d.~~ e. A licensed optometrist 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.

~~e.~~ f. The board is not required to adopt rules relating to topical pharmaceutical agents, oral antimicrobial agents, oral antihistamines, oral antiglaucoma agents, and oral analgesic agents. A licensed optometrist may remove superficial foreign bodies from the human eye and adnexa.

~~f.~~ g. The therapeutic efforts of a licensed 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](#).

~~g.~~ h. A licensed optometrist is an optometrist who is licensed to practice optometry in this state and who is certified by the board to use the agents and procedures authorized pursuant to [this subsection](#).

Approved June 29, 2020