

Subject: RE: Proposal for therapeutic qualification to be included as a requirement for general registration
Date: Friday, 4 March 2011 2:30:22 PM

To whom it may concern;

RE: Proposal for therapeutic qualification to be included as a requirement for general registration

I do not agree with the proposal to have therapeutic qualification a requirement for general optometry registration.

1. When studying optometry one did not come into the profession with the idea of being a medic and all the extra responsibilities that come with it. Prescribing medication, while it may be suitable for some, I don't think those that do not feel comfortable with the idea should be forced to do so. This certainly would not benefit the public.

2. No I do not feel as though it is a reasonable expectation for optometrists. As mentioned above, many optometrist came into the profession to prescribe glasses and to monitor the health of the eye and to refer when necessary. I think that while most optometrists would more than likely be capable of prescribing and monitoring, why should one have to take a reasonable amount of consultation time and spend a large amount of money to obtain creditation for something that really isn't going to add sufficiently to their business income in the long run. If it did become required, I think there would have to be compensation for this, for example the government should cover the cost of obtaining the additional education.

3.As mentioned above, it certainly should not be a requirement unless optometrists are compensated for it.

The rest of the questions do not need to be answered as I am not in agreeance to it. I do believe, however, that optometrists who feel the need to further their development and have interest in this area should certainly be allowed to practice therapeutics as it does provide another level of interest for optometrists.

Kind Regards

Antonia