

Subject: Opinion
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As a 51 year old optometrist in a busy rural business, the imposition of compulsory therapeutics, while possibly interesting, would be a practical and financial nightmare for me. I would have neither the time, nor the ready availability of locums willing to travel to the bush to cover my absence, to complete the requirements. This is not to mention the costs involved in undertaking the course.

Surely at this stage of the game, the sensible approach would be to train current and upcoming graduates in therapeutics, rather than enforcing it on the older generation of practitioners, who have managed to successfully ply their trade for, in my case, 30 years, without mishap.

I would anticipate that many senior optometrists, especially those in the country areas may take the easier option, and hang up their retinoscopes, leaving a massive void in these communities.

Let's hope that sanity prevails in this matter and no spontaneous, and ill conceived decision is made without thought of the repercussions.

Peter