

WAC 246-851-570 Certification required for use or prescription of drugs administered orally for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

(1) To qualify for certification to use or prescribe drugs administered orally for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, a licensed optometrist must provide documentation that he or she:

(a) Is certified to use or prescribe topical drugs for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes under WAC 246-851-400 and has successfully completed a minimum of 16 hours of didactic and eight hours of supervised clinical instruction from an institution of higher learning, accredited by those agencies recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council on Higher Education; or

(b) Holds a current active optometry license in another state that has licensing standards substantially equivalent to those in Washington state. The licensee's level of licensure must also be substantially equivalent to the licensing standards in Washington state.

(2) The didactic instruction must include a minimum of 16 hours in the following subject area:

(a) Basic principles of systemic drug therapy;

(b) Side effects, adverse reactions and drug interactions in systemic therapy;

(c) Review of oral pharmaceuticals:

(i) Prescription writing;

(ii) Legal regulations in oral prescription writing;

(iii) Systemic antibacterials in primary eye care;

(iv) Systemic antivirals in eye care;

(v) Systemic antifungal in eye care;

(vi) Systemic antihistamines and decongestants and their uses in eye care;

(vii) Oral dry eye agents;

(viii) Antiemetic and their use in eye care;

(ix) Systemic diuretics and their management of elevated IOP;

(x) Systemic epinephrine;

(d) Review of systemic medication in ocular pain management:

(i) Legal regulations with scheduled medication;

(ii) Systemic nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs);

(iii) Systemic noncontrolled analgesics;

(iv) Systemic controlled substances;

(e) Review of oral medications used for sedation and anti-anxiety properties in eye care:

(i) Controlled anti-anxiety/sedative substances;

(ii) Legal ramifications of prescribing anti-anxiety drugs;

(f) Review of systemic medications used during pregnancy and in pediatric eye care:

(i) Legal ramifications in prescribing to this population;

(ii) Dosage equivalent with pregnancy and pediatrics;

(iii) Medications to avoid with pregnancy and pediatrics;

(g) Applied systemic pharmacology:

(i) Eyelid and adnexal tissue;

(ii) Lacrimal system and peri-orbital sinuses;

(iii) Conjunctival and corneal disorders;

(iv) Iris and anterior chamber disorders;

(v) Posterior segment disorders;

(vi) Optic nerve disease;

(vii) Peripheral vascular disease and its relationship with ocular disease;

(viii) Atherosclerotic disease;

(ix) Other/course review.

- (3) The supervised clinical instruction must include at least eight hours in the following subject areas:
- (a) Vital signs;
 - (b) Auscultation;
 - (c) Ear, nose and throat;
 - (d) Screening neurological exam.
- (4) Written examination to cover required curriculum.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.53.010 and 18.54.070. WSR 24-23-044, s 246-851-570, filed 11/14/24, effective 12/15/24. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.54.070(2) and 18.53.010. WSR 10-21-067, § 246-851-570, filed 10/15/10, effective 11/15/10. Statutory Authority: 2003 c 142 and RCW 18.54.072(2). WSR 04-05-004, § 246-851-570, filed 2/5/04, effective 3/7/04.]