



College of Pharmacists of Manitoba

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Optometrists – Prescribing Authority

The Regulations under the *Optometry Amendment Act* approved **July 15, 2013**, authorize optometrists to prescribe medications, order tests and remove foreign bodies from the eye.

An optometrist can register for one of two classes of optometric drug licenses: Therapeutic or Diagnostic. Optometrists who have a Therapeutic licence issued by the Manitoba Association of Optometrists (MAO) can prescribe medications listed in Schedule A of the Regulations. [Schedule A](#) is divided into Diagnostic Drugs and Therapeutic Drugs. An optometrist with a Diagnostic licence can administer diagnostic drugs (but not prescribe) while an optometrist with a Therapeutic license can prescribe and administer any medication listed in [Schedule A](#). [Schedule A](#) includes all topical over the counter and prescription eye medications as well as oral medications for glaucoma. Oral antibiotics can only be prescribed for treatment of chronic eyelid disease. In many cases such as treatment of glaucoma, the optometrist must consult and collaborate with an ophthalmologist. Optometrists with a therapeutic license do not have the authority to prescribe narcotic or controlled substances.

Pharmacists can verify an optometrist's therapeutic license by checking the register on the [MOA website \(www.optometrists.mb.ca\)](http://www.optometrists.mb.ca). For DPIN entry, the pharmacy will use the designation E followed by the optometrist's DPIN prescriber number.