



Optometrists Prescribing Privileges

Effective January 8, 2016, the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists have the authority to diagnose, treat and manage glaucoma, including prescribing oral medications for eye health related conditions.

Of specific relevance to members is the Optometric Profession Bylaws, which allows qualified optometrists to prescribe and use therapeutic (including oral) agents for the treatment of ocular diseases and abnormal conditions, including for anti-glaucoma agents. The following interpretive guidelines have been prepared to assist members in the implementation of this bylaw:

1. Only optometrists who hold a valid **Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents Certificate** are authorized to prescribe. Optometrists will verify their authority to prescribe when issuing prescriptions. For example, they have been asked to cite their certificate number on prescriptions which, when followed with the suffix “T”, means that the optometrist in question is entitled to prescribe pursuant to the bylaw.

However, because these optometrists are also eligible to prescribe benefits under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan, the Drug Plan will include these optometrists in their prescriber lists. The Drug Plan will provide future updates, as well as assign prescriber numbers which differ from the optometrists' certificate numbers. Use the **assigned prescriber** number, NOT the certificate number, when submitting claims to the Drug Plan.

2. **Optometrists who hold a Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents Certificate may prescribe agents for the treatment of ocular diseases and abnormal conditions including antiglaucoma agents.**
3. All Optometrists licensed in Saskatchewan may order any pharmaceutical agent for **diagnostic purposes** within their scope of practice.
4. The Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists (SAO) has asked that any suspected violation of the foregoing, such as prescriptions issued by non-authorized optometrists, or issued beyond these guidelines, should be reported to the SCP office. We, in turn, will refer the report to the SAO.

This means that optometrists who have a “T” affixed to the end of their member number (example, 1234T) are authorized to prescribe medication products for conditions, including for anti-glaucoma agents, within their scope of practice. There is no restriction as to the dosage form prescribed.