

**[PRC BOARD OF OPTOMETRY RESOLUTION NO.
03, s. 1997, November 04, 1997]**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE EXAMINATION AND
REGISTRATION OF OPTOMETRISTS AND THE REGULATION OF
THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY**

Pursuant to Section 12 and 35 of R.A. No. 8050, otherwise known as the "Revised Optometry Law of 1995", the Board of Optometry hereby promulgates, subject to the approval of the Professional Regulation Commission, the following Rules and Regulations to effectively carry out the provisions of the Act.

Rule I

TITLE, DEFINITION AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

SECTION 1. This issuance shall be known and cited as the "Rules and Regulations Governing the Examination and Registration of Optometrists and the Regulation of the Practice of Optometry."

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. — Unless otherwise expressly provided, the following terms shall be understood to mean:

- a. "*Board*" — refers to the Board of Optometry.
- b. "*Certificate of Registration*" — refers to "a document, signed by the Commission of the PRC and by all members of the Board of Optometry and bearing its seal, issued to an applicant who has satisfied the requirements for the practice of optometry. It shall serve as proof that the registrant is qualified to practice the profession in the Philippines."
- c. "*Clinical Skills Assessment/Examination*" — a clinical competency examination developed, prepared and scored/graded by the Board as the clinical examination component of the licensure examination.
- d. "*Code of Professional Ethics*" — a set of standards relating to the conduct, integrity and moral duties of optometrists, as prescribed by the duly integrated and accredited national organization of optometrists and adopted and promulgated by the Board of Optometry upon the approval of the PRC.
- e. "*Continuing Professional Educational Council (CPEC)*" — refers to the Council created under PRC Resolution No. 507, s. 1997 which shall assist the Board in implementing Continuing Professional Education (CPE) programs and activities.
- f. "*CPE credit units*" — refer to credits earned by a participant in attending CPE programs and activities.

g. "*Continuing Professional Education Program/Activity*" — refers to a group study program/activity prepared by accredited CPE providers approved by the CPE Council, participation to which CPE credit units are given.

h. "*Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents*" — specific topical drugs used to aid optometrists in their examination of the human eye. Until otherwise specified by the Board of Optometry, upon approval by the Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) upon recommendation of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), these agents shall be limited to the following:

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| (1) Phenylaprine | — 2.5% ophthalmic drops; |
| (2) Tropicamide | — 0.5% ophthalmic drops; |
| (3) Proparacaine | — 0.5% ophthalmic drops; |
| (4) Oxylenprocaine HCl | — 0.4% ophthalmic drops; and |
| (5) Flurecein strips | |

i. "*Optometrist*" — a person who has been certified by the Board of Optometry and registered with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) as being qualified to practice optometry in the Philippines.

j. "*Optometrist in good standing*" — a registered optometrist who is authorized to practice the profession in the Philippines by virtue of a valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license issued by the PRC for the purpose.

k. "*Optometry*" — the science and art of examining the human eye, analyzing the ocular function, prescribing and dispensing ophthalmic lenses, prisms, contact lenses, and their accessories and solutions, low vision aids, and similar appliances and devices, conducting ocular exercises, vision training, orthoptics, installing prosthetics, using authorized diagnostic pharmaceutical agents (DPA), and other preventive and corrective measures or procedures for the aid, correction, rehabilitation or relief of the human eye, or to attain maximum vision and comfort.

l. "*PRC*" — refers to the Professional Regulation Commission created under Presidential Decree No. 223.

m. "*Professional License*" — a renewable card, issued by the PRC to a registered optometrist, indicating that he is competent and authorized to practice optometry in the Philippines. Until the lapse of its validity or its expiration, such license shall serve as evidence that its bearer is an optometrist in good standing.

SECTION 3. Scope of Practice of Optometry. — The following acts shall constitute the practice of Optometry:

a. The examination of the human eye through the employment of subjective and objective procedures, including the use of specific topical diagnostic pharmaceutical agents or drugs and instruments, tools, equipment, implements, visual aids, apparatuses, machines, ocular exercises and related devices, for the purpose of determining the condition and acuity of human vision to correct and improve the same in accordance with subsections b, c and d hereof;

b. The prescription and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, prisms, contact lenses and

their accessories and solutions, frames and their accessories, and supplies for the purpose of correcting and treating defects, deficiencies and abnormalities of vision;

c. The conduct of ocular exercises and vision training, the provision of orthoptics and other devices and procedures to aid and correct abnormalities of human vision, and the installation of prosthetic devices;

d. The counselling of patients with regard to vision and eye care and hygiene;

e. The establishment of offices, clinics, and similar places where optometric services are offered; and

f. The collection of professional fees for the performance of any of the acts mentioned in paragraphs a, b, c and d of this Section.

Rule II

COMPOSITION, QUALIFICATIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE, REMOVAL/SUSPENSION AND COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

SECTION 4. Composition of the Board of Optometry. — The Board of Optometry shall be composed of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, upon recommendation of the PRC, from a list of ten (10) nominees submitted by the duly integrated and accredited national organization of optometrists.

SECTION 5. Qualification of Board Members. — Only persons who possess the following qualifications may be nominated, recommended and appointed to the Board:

a. A natural born citizen of the Philippines

b. A duly registered optometrist in good standing

c. At least 35 years of age at the time of his appointment

d. Of good moral character and

e. In active practice of the profession for at least ten (10) years prior to his appointment.

SECTION 6. Persons Disqualified for Appointment. — The following are disqualified from being appointed members of the Board:

a. A person who is a member of the faculty; whether full time, part time or lecturer of any school or college or university where a regular course in optometry is taught;

b. A person who has any pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any school or college or university where a regular course in optometry is taught;

c. An officer of any optometric association.

SECTION 7. Term of Office. — The members of the Board shall hold office for a non-

renewable term of office of five (5) years, starting on the date of appointment and until successors shall have been appointed.

The first appointees of the Board, who may include the incumbent members of the existing Board of Optometry, shall hold office as follows:

- a. The Chairperson for five (5) years, and
- b. The four (4) members for fixed terms of four (4), three (3), two (2) and one (1) year/s, such that the term of one member shall be due to expire every year.

Thereafter, one member shall be appointed for the full term (of 5 years) every and such member, in the last year of his term, shall automatically become the Chairperson of the Board.

Vacancies brought about by reasons other than expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term only.

SECTION 8. Removal or Suspension of Board Members. — Any member of the Board may be removed by the President of the Philippines for (a) neglect of duty, (b) incompetence, (c) malpractice, (d) unprofessional, unethical, immoral or dishonorable conduct if found guilty of such act/s in an administrative investigation conducted by the PRC where the member is afforded due process of law.

The member under investigation may be suspended by the President of the Philippines for a period of not more than sixty (60) days and appoint a temporary member in his place.

SECTION 9. Compensation. — The members of the Board shall each received compensation in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Professional Regulation Commission.

Rule III

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

SECTION 10. Powers and Functions of the Board. — The Board is hereby vested with authority to:

- a. Promulgate the rules and regulations for the practice of optometry, subject to the approval of the PRC and in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- b. Administer and enforce the rules and regulations specified in the preceding subsection;
- c. Determine and prepare the contents of licensure examinations, adopt measures to ensure its integrity, check and rate the examination papers and submit the results thereof to the PRC;
- d. Formulate and oversee, in consultation and coordination with the PRC, guidelines for the proper conduct of licensure examinations and the registration of optometrists;

- e. Issue, suspend, revoke and reissue certificates of registration to qualified optometrists and renew their professional licenses;
- f. Impose reasonable requirements and condition, such as attendance in continuing education activities and programs, for the renewal of an optometrist's license to practice and for the purpose of upgrading the professional competence of optometrists;
- g. Maintain a registry of optometrists in good standing;
- h. Adopt, promulgate and disseminate the Code of Ethics for the practice of optometry in the Philippines;
- i. Administer oaths in connection with the implementation of this Act;
- j. Conduct hearings and investigations to resolve complaints against practitioners of optometry for malpractice, unethical and unprofessional conduct, and violations of this Act or its implementing rules and regulations, and in connection therewith, issue subpoena ad testificandum and subpoena duces tecum and punish with contempt persons obstructing, impeding and/or otherwise interfering with the conduct of such proceedings;
- k. Conduct ocular inspections of establishments and/or premises where optometric services are offered to ascertain that professional standards are complied with;
- l. Upon application, to issue an order enjoining or abating the illegal practice of optometry by unqualified persons;
- m. Impose fines and penalties, after due process and in accordance with the provision of this Act, for causes provided for by law or by the rules and regulations promulgated therefor;
- n. Evaluate periodically the status of optometric education and recommend and/or adopt measures to upgrade and maintain its high standards;
- o. Update the list of topical diagnostic pharmaceutical agents, specifically mydriatics, cycloplegics, miotics, anesthetics and diagnostic dyes, that may be used by optometrists, subject to the approval of the Department of Health and the Bureau of Food and Drugs; and
- p. Study the conditions affecting the practice of optometry in all parts of the Philippines, and, whenever necessary, adopt such measures as may be deemed proper for the maintenance of good ethics and high professional standards of optometric practice.

SECTION 11. Meetings of the Board. — The Board shall hold a regular meeting at least once a month within the PRC's premises or in such other place/s as may be agreed upon by the Board with the approval of the PRC on a date and time fixed by the Board. A special meeting may be called by the Chairman or any two (2) members to consider, deliberate or upon act on urgent and important matters. The Board shall keep the minutes of its regular and special meetings certified as correct by the secretary assigned by the PRC to the Board and attested by the Chairman of