

Optometry Pharmaceutical Quick Reference Guide

This guide lists the rules regarding the prescription and use of pharmaceuticals

1. You must have a current optometry license with TPA endorsement before prescribing ANY pharmaceuticals. Even if you have been prescribing topical pharmaceuticals for years, if you did not complete the educational requirements to renew your TPA, you must not prescribe or use pharmaceuticals.
2. You may prescribe and use a pharmaceutical agent if it is for the treatment of ocular disease or conditions, ocular adnexal disease or conditions, or emergency anaphylaxis. That means no birth control for the wife or Prilosec for the stomach etc.
3. You must have a physician-patient relationship defined as:
 - a) a person, or someone on the person's behalf, has sought optometric examination or treatment of the person;
 - b) the optometrist has accepted the person as a patient and conducted an optometric examination and evaluation of the patient; and
 - c) the professional relationship between the optometrist and the patient has not been terminated.
4. If you are prescribing a controlled substance you must also:
 - a) have a DEA # on file with the department
 - b) prescribe only schedule IIIA - VA; (please note that Alaska has its own schedule of controlled substances)
 - c) prescribe less than four days of use
5. If you are injecting a pharmaceutical you must also:
 - a) not inject into the ocular globe of the eye
 - b) not inject a derivative of clostridium botulinum