

TENNESSEE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY  
POLICY STATEMENT ON USE OF INJECTABLES  
MAY, 1995

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated Sections 63-8-102(12)(e) and 63-8-112(4) and Board Rule 1045-2-.07(3)(d), the Board hereby issues the following policy regarding approval of courses and approval for therapeutically certified optometrists to use pharmaceutical agents by injection:

1. Only optometrists currently therapeutically certified in Tennessee are allowed to use pharmaceutical agents by injection.
2. All therapeutically certified optometrists who are allowed to use pharmaceutical agents by injection must maintain current certification for basic life support on an annual basis.
3. All therapeutically certified optometrists must take a course or courses approved by the this Board that includes all of the following basic components:
  - (a) Basic procedures of parenteral drug administration to include intramuscular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intralesional, subconjunctival, periocular and retrobulbar;
  - (b) Medications and their possible complications to be administered parenterally;
  - (c) Compliance with OSHA standards for all procedures, including the handling of waste generated by parenteral drug administration;
  - (d) Emergency treatment of patients suffering drug allergic reactions;and
  - (e) Wet labs where all of the noted procedures in paragraph 3(a) above are practiced on animal models, plastic models, or on human subjects in a laboratory or clinical setting, and where such procedures are approved as being passed by an instructor.
4. Submission of evidence of completion of the above noted coursework will enable therapeutically certified optometrist to be approved by this Board to use pharmaceutical agents by injection.