



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF HEALTH LICENSURE AND REGULATION
DIVISION OF HEALTH RELATED BOARDS
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243
www.Tennessee.gov/health

TENNESSEE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
(615) 741-5735 or (800) 778-4123 toll free

Dear Doctor:

On Friday, October 17, 2014, at its regularly scheduled board meeting, the Board of Optometry (Board) discussed the following matters:

- Optometrists who **currently** hold a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license must register an account with the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database (<https://www.tncsmd.com/TNNewRegistration.aspx>) **and on or** after January 1, 2015 must obtain at least two (2) hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing prior to renewal of **their Tennessee** license.
- The Board voted to allow a ninety (90) day grace period to obtain at least two (2) hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing for those licensees who renew in January, February, and March of 2015.
- A rulemaking hearing is expected to occur in 2015 which proposes that **ALL** optometrists (**not just those with a DEA license**) in Tennessee **be** required to complete at least two (2) hours of continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing every two (2) years. The continuing education related to controlled substance prescribing shall include instruction regarding the department's treatment guidelines on opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol. The course may include topics such as medicine addition, risk management tools, as well as other Board approved topics. These two (2) hours will count toward the thirty (30) hours required continuing education credit.
- A rulemaking hearing is expected to occur in 2015 which proposes a change to the continuing education cycle. The proposed rule would make the continuing education cycle and the renewal cycle concurrent. If the rule passes, licensees would be required to obtain their continuing education in the twenty-four (24) months preceding the licensure renewal month.
- A rulemaking hearing is expected to occur in 2015 which proposes a reduction in the initial Application Fee and Licensure Renewal Fee.

This bulleted list is not intended to be all inclusive of the matters discussed during the board meeting. However, this list is intended to advise licensees of major issues discussed by the Board and relevant to your practice.

Yvette Hernandez

Yvette Hernandez

Board Administrator