

MINNESOTA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

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Scope of Practice Guidance

The Minnesota Scope of Practice for Optometrists is defined in Minnesota Statute 148.56. It is recommended the Optometrist read the entire optometry law found on the website. The law cannot define all decision points the Optometrist will encounter during their career.

This is the only document that is available for the O.D. to determine the minimum standards of practice as listed in Minn. Statute 148.56 (a) and minimally, you must answer to the affirmative for items (A):1-7 and negatively to items (B):1-5.

Optometry Scope of Practice 148.56

(a) Any person shall be deemed to be practicing optometry within the meaning of sections [148.52](#) to [148.62](#) who shall in any way:

- (1) advertise as an optometrist; or
- (2) employ any means, including the use of auto refractors or other automated testing devices, for the measurement of the powers of vision or the adaptation of lenses or prisms for the aid thereof; or
- (3) possess testing appliances for the purpose of the measurement of the powers of vision; or
- (4) diagnose any disease, optical deficiency or deformity, or visual or muscular anomaly of the visual system consisting of the human eye and its accessory or subordinate anatomical parts; or
- (5) prescribe lenses, including plano or cosmetic contact lenses, or prisms for the correction or the relief of same; or
- (6) employ or prescribe ocular exercises, orthoptics, or habilitative and rehabilitative therapeutic vision care; or
- (7) prescribe or administer legend drugs to aid in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, prevention, treatment, or management of disease, deficiency, deformity, or abnormality of the human eye and adnexa ***included in the curricula of accredited schools or colleges of optometry***, and as limited by Minnesota statute and adopted rules by the Board of Optometry, or who holds oneself out as being able to do so.

(b) In the course of treatment, nothing in this section shall allow:

- (1) legend drugs to be administered intravenously, intramuscularly, or by injection, except for treatment of anaphylaxis;
- (2) invasive surgery including, but not limited to, surgery using lasers;
- (3) Schedule II and III oral legend drugs and oral steroids to be administered or prescribed;
- (4) oral antivirals to be prescribed or administered for more than ten days; or
- (5) oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors to be prescribed or administered for more than seven days.

Subd. 2. Unlawful practices.

It shall be unlawful for any person who is not licensed as an optometrist in this state to:

- (1) perform any of the actions contained in subdivision 1;
- (2) fit, sell, or dispose of, or to take, receive, or solicit any order for the fitting, sale, or disposition of, any spectacles, eye glasses, or lenses for the correction of vision in any place within the state other than an established place of business where spectacles, eye glasses, or lenses are commonly sold and dealt in; or
- (3) sell or dispose of, at retail, any spectacles, eye glasses, or lenses for the correction of vision in any established place of business or elsewhere in this state except under the supervision, direction, and authority of a duly licensed optometrist who holds a certificate under sections [148.52](#) to [148.62](#), and is in charge of and in personal attendance at the booth, counter, or place where such articles are sold or disposed of.