

State of Alaska  
Board of Examiners in Optometry Board  
Issued Advisory

*This advisory is issued for the assistance of licensees and applicants; it is not intended to and cannot change the requirements that are set out in AS 08.72.110 et. seq. or 12 AAC 48.011 et. seq.*

Advisory #1

Subject: Nontopical Therapeutic Injections Course for initial licensure by examination

Implemented: November 2012

Statutory Authority: AS 08.72.140

Initial licensure, as required by AS 08.72.140(4)(C) and 12 AAC 48.015:

For students who are just graduating from a Board recognized school or college of optometry:

Applicants are highly encouraged to successfully complete the ISE portion of the NBEO Part III, which typically meets the requirement of AS 08.72.140(4)(C) and 12 AAC 48.015.

Failure of the ISE portion of the NBEO Exam Part III does not preclude a candidate from licensure, if they have demonstrated safety and proficiency through successful completion of a post-graduate injection skills workshop approved by the Board.

Education typically should include a seven hour workshop with hands-on training and/or instruction regarding injections; such training typically includes these topics: intravenous, subconjunctival, subcutaneous, intralesional, infiltrative anesthesia, nerve block, and intramuscular injections and applications.

Please contact the Division and include a syllabus and/or course outline. Prior approval is recommended and approval may take a minimum of 60 days after submission. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the licensing examiner for the Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Should you have any questions about this advisory, please contact the division at 907.465.2580 or email [license@alaska.gov](mailto:license@alaska.gov).

(Rev. 07/13/15)

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Advisory #2

Subject: Nontopical Therapeutic Injections Course for initial licensure by credentials

Implemented: November 2012

Statutory Authority: AS 08.72.140 / AS 08.72.170

For applicants who are presently credentialed in another state:

Education typically should include seven hours of training and/or instruction regarding injections; such training typically includes these topics: intravenous, subconjunctival, subcutaneous, intralesional, infiltrative anesthesia, nerve block, and intramuscular injections & applications.

Applicants who have successfully passed the ISE portion of the NBEO Exam Part III will typically meet the requirement of AS 08.72.140(4)(C).

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Advisory #3

Subject: Nontopical Therapeutic Injections Education for Continuing Education Requirements

Implemented: November 2012

Statutory Authority: AS 08.72.181 Regulatory

Authority: 12 AAC 48.210(d)(2)

For current licensees seeking continuing education:

Education typically should include seven hours of training and/or instruction regarding injections; such training typically includes these topics: intravenous, subconjunctival, subcutaneous, intralesional, infiltrative anesthesia, nerve block, and intramuscular injections & applications. In most cases, courses that meet this requirement will include "injections" in the course title or description.

Online injections courses may be approved by the Board with prior submission to the Board along with a copy of the syllabus and/or course outline. Please submit this information in accordance with 12 AAC 48.200(c). Online courses should not represent all seven hours of injections continuing education.

Should you have any questions about this advisory, please contact the division at 907.465.2580 or email [license@alaska.gov](mailto:license@alaska.gov).

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*This advisory is issued for the assistance and direction of those licensed under AS 08.72*

Advisory #4

Subject: Risks & concerns with colored or cosmetic contact lenses (non-prescription)

Implemented: April 19, 2013

Statutory Authority: AS 08.72.060(b)(2); AS 08.72.240(5)

The Board feels that the citizens of Alaska should be made aware of the dangers of using non-prescription contact lenses for cosmetic reasons. The Board is issuing this Advisory Opinion as a means of education rather than punitive or regulatory action as the use and sale of colored contact lenses is regulated by the FDA.

Prescription contact lenses are regulated for public safety to ensure proper care of one's eye. Non-prescription cosmetic contact lenses may not fit the eye properly, nor is there consistency in the type of material used. Contacts are designed with specific parameters to fit your eyes properly and non-prescription cosmetic lenses may not come with these parameters. If you purchase a contact lens over the counter without these safeguards, you could put your eyes at risk. (Public law 109-96 section 520(n))

When cosmetic/colored contacts are bought and used without a valid prescription, without the involvement of a qualified eye care professional (optometrist, ophthalmologist, or dispensing optician), or without appropriate follow-up care, it can lead to significant risks of eye injuries, including blindness.

Purchasing cosmetic contact lenses from beauty salons, novelty stores, video stores, flea markets, convenience stores, and online sales without proper fitting is considered unsafe by the Board. Also, it is illegal without a valid prescription under federal law (Public law 109-96 section 520(n)). You should only purchase cosmetic or colored contact lenses from a licensed practitioner (optometrist, ophthalmologist, or dispensing optician).

Wearing any kind of contact lenses, including decorative ones, can cause serious damage to your eyes if the lenses are not used correctly.

These risks include:

- A cut or scratch on the top layer of your eyeball (Corneal Abrasion)
- Allergic reactions like itchy, watery red eyes
- Decreased vision
- Infection
- Blindness
- Corneal scarring & neovascularization

When wearing any type of contact lenses, be aware of signs of possible eye infection, which include:

- Redness and/or discharge
- Pain in the eye(s) that doesn't go away after a short period of time
- Decreased vision

If you have any of these signs, you need to see a licensed eye doctor (optometrist or ophthalmologist) right away! An eye infection could become serious and cause blindness if not treated promptly.

Should you have any questions about this advisory, please contact the division at 907.465.2580 or email [license@alaska.gov](mailto:license@alaska.gov).

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Advisory #5

Subject: Mandatory Registration with ALASKA PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM (AKPDMP)

Implemented: June 2016

Statutory Authority: AS 08.72.060/AS 17.30.200

The Alaska Board of Examiners in Optometry reminds all licensed practitioners possessing a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) number that they must be registered with the Alaska Prescription Drug Monitoring Program database (AKPDMP), available through the Alaska Pharmacy Board website. This registration must occur no later than July 17, 2017 or within 30 days of being issued a DEA number.

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofPharmacy/PrescriptionDrugMonitoringProgram.aspx>

Additionally, to comply with the rules set forth in AS 17.30.200(k), a practitioner is required to review the database PRIOR to prescribing a Schedule II or Schedule III controlled substance, except in those instances as detailed in AS 17.30.200(k).

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