Letter Requesting A Second Round of Submissions

Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council

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Ontario

October 12, 1999

Dear Participants:

re: Optometry – therapeutic pharmaceutical agents (TPA) referral

This is to advise that we have received a total of 18 written submissions from the 27 participants in the Optometry – TPA referral. (Please see the attached list and advise us as soon as possible if you have not received any of these submissions.)

The Advisory Council would like your comments on <u>any</u> issues raised in the submissions, and specifically on:

1. the public's need for an expansion in the scope of practice of optometrists as indicated by:
    - the number of referrals to ophthalmologists and family physicians that could be avoided
    - the waiting time for ophthalmologists and/or family physicians
    - the geographic distribution and population coverage of ophthalmologists and/or family physicians
    - the use of emergency rooms for eye care
    - the availability of appropriate instrumentation in family physicians' offices

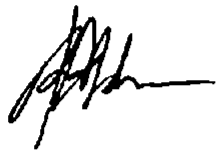
2. the drugs being requested by the Ontario Association of Optometrists (see attached)

3. the laboratory tests being requested by the Ontario Association of Optometrists (see attached)

The deadline for submissions in this second round is November 30th, 1999. Please ensure that six copies of your submission are sent to HPRAC as well as one copy to each of the participants listed on the attached page (excluding those who have withdrawn). Once these submissions have been reviewed, a decision will be made regarding whether public presentations will be required.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Deanne Montesano, Policy Analyst at (416) 326-1554, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Rob Alder, MMedSc, PhD
Chair

Att.

Optometry – TPAs referral

Written submissions received by:

1. Dr. Daniel F. Andrew
2. The Association of Ontario Ophthalmologists
3. The Association of Primary Eye Care Physicians of Ontario
4. The Canadian Association of Optometrists
5. The Canadian Ophthalmological Society
6. The College of Opticians of Ontario
7. The College of Optometrists of Ontario
8. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
9. Dr. Alan S. Davidson
10. The Ontario Association of Optometrists
11. The Ontario Chiropractic Association
12. The Ontario College of Family Physicians
13. The Ontario Medical Association
14. The Ontario Nurses Association
15. Dr. John Parks
16. The University of Waterloo School of Optometry
17. The Vision Institute of Canada
18. The Vision Council of Canada

No written response was received from the following participants:

19. Survivors of Medical Abuse
20. Society of Independent Community Pharmacists
21. The Ontario Medical Association – Section of Ophthalmology

The following individuals/groups have withdrawn either by written or verbal communication with HPRAC:

22. Dr. Bruce Hawkins
23. Ms. Blanca McArthur – Ontario Society of Medical Technologists
24. Ms. Noelle-Dominique Willens – Canadian Pharmaceutical Association
25. Mr. Robert Walsh – Alcohol and Drug Concerns, Inc.
26. Mr. Nick Atkinson – Opticians Association of Canada
27. The College of Pharmacists

**Note: the full list of participants (including their addresses) was sent out to each of you on April 13th, 1999.

Table 1: TPAs Proposed for Optometric Use

Pharmaceutical Category	Pharmaceutical Sub-category	Appropriate Use of Pharmaceuticals	A Condition Treatable with These Agents
Anti-infectives	Topical antibacterials	External bacterial eye eye infections	Conjunctivitis
	Topical antivirals	External viral eye infections	Herpes simplex keratitis
	Topical antifungals	External fungal eye infections	Fungal keratitis
	Oral antibiotics	Bacterial eyelid diseases	Blepharitis
Anti-inflammatories	Topical steroids	Anterior segment inflammation	Anterior uveitis
	Topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAI)		Post-refractive surgery
Anti-allergy	Topical antihistamines	Control of allergic reaction	Allergic conjunctivitis
	Mast cell stabilizers		
Anti-glaucoma medications	Adrenergic agents	Lower intra-ocular pressure (IOP)	Open angle glaucoma
	Cholinergic agents		
	Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors		
	Prostaglandin analogs		
	Hyperosmotic agents		Acute angle-closure glaucoma
Cycloplegics		Anterior segment inflammatory diseases	Anterior uveitis
Other new and investigational topical pharmaceutical agents rational to the treatment of ocular disease		Control of inflammation, infection, allergic response, pain management, and other conditions	
Analgesics		Pain management	Corneal abrasions

Ontario
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Margaret Anne McHugh
Executive Coordinator, HPRAC
2195 Yonge Street, 4th Floor
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BY FAX & MAIL

June 14, 1999

Dear Ms. McHugh:

Please find attached the Ontario Association of Optometrists' (OAO) response to your November 13, 1998 request for a chart regarding the types of laboratory tests that would be required by optometrists (Question #2).

Treatment is usually based upon a diagnosis determined from patient signs and symptoms at initial presentation. However, in a small number of cases or if a particular patient does not respond to initial therapy, laboratory tests would be required to determine a definitive diagnosis. Clinical care guidelines will address informing the family physician when the patient is prescribed oral medications (e.g. glaucoma medications) and long term topical medications (e.g. beta blockers).

The ordering of smears, cultures and sensitivities used in the diagnosis of diseases listed below are currently within the scope of practice of optometry.

Below is the type of chart that you requested:

<u>Laboratory Tests to be ordered for Optometry</u>

Example Condition	Types of Laboratory Tests Required by Optometrists
	The following laboratory tests can be found in the *Ministry of Health Schedule of Benefits for Laboratory Services April 1, 1999* (MOH Laboratories Branch April 1, 1999).
Conjunctivitis	L622-Chlamydia culture isolation or non-cultural assays L626-Fungus, including KOH preparation and smear L628-Other swabs or pus-culture and smear (includes screening) L714-Smear for inclusion bodies L715-Smear for eosinophils (nasal, sputum, ocular, etc.)
Keratitis	L622-Chlamydia culture isolation or non-cultural assays L626-Fungus, including KOH preparation and smear L628-Other swabs or pus-culture and smear (includes screening) L714-Smear for inclusion bodies L715-Smear for eosinophils (nasal, sputum, ocular, etc.)
Blepharitis	L622-Chlamydia culture isolation or non-cultural assays L626-Fungus, including KOH preparation and smear L628-Other swabs or pus-culture and smear (includes screening) L714-Smear for inclusion bodies L715-Smear for eosinophils (nasal, sputum, ocular, etc.)

The Ontario Association of Optometrists has distributed copies of our first submission titled "Submission in Support of an Expansion of Scope" to all participants who indicated an interest in our referral. The Association will provide a second submission to HPRAC and the various participants before the June 30, 1999 deadline.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wattie Fuller, M.Sc.
Director of Policy and Government Relations