

---

## OHIO OPTICAL DISPENSERS BOARD

- Requires spectacle dispensing opticians to complete two hours of study in prepackaged soft contact lens dispensing before being authorized to dispense prepackaged soft contact lenses.
- Modifies the continuing education requirement regarding contact lens dispensing that applies to spectacle dispensing opticians.
- Exempts from continuing education requirements certain professionals who are applying for the initial renewal of a license issued by the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board.
- Requires the Board to approve continuing education programs that are conducted in person or through electronic or other self-study means.
- Specifies that "optical dispensing" does not include placing an order for the delivery of an optical aid.

### **Spectacle dispensing opticians – contact lens dispensing**

(R.C. 4725.411)

Under law modified by the act, licensed spectacle dispensing opticians are authorized to dispense prepackaged soft contact lenses beginning January 1, 2016. The act requires spectacle dispensing opticians to complete two hours of study in prepackaged soft contact lens dispensing approved by the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board. The act provides that a spectacle dispensing optician is not authorized to dispense prepackaged soft contact lenses until the two hours of study is completed. Spectacle dispensing opticians who are licensed on September 29, 2015, (the act's 90-day effective date) must complete the two hours of study by December 31, 2015, and those who receive a license after September 29, 2015, must complete the requirement by December 31 of the year the license is received.

### **Continuing education**

(R.C. 4725.51; Section 747.20)

The act modifies the continuing education requirement regarding contact lens dispensing that applies to spectacle dispensing opticians. It repeals a provision specifying that the continuing education is to be limited to education in the dispensing of prepackaged soft contact lenses and the action of matching the packaging description



to a written prescription. Instead, the act specifies that the continuing education is to cover contact lens dispensing in general. A spectacle dispensing optician who is licensed on September 29, 2015, can satisfy this continuing education requirement by completing the two hours of study in prepackaged soft contact lens dispensing that must be completed by December 31, 2015 (as described above).

The act exempts from continuing education requirements spectacle dispensing opticians, contact lens dispensing opticians, spectacle-contact lens dispensing opticians, and ocularists who are applying for an initial license renewal. This exemption does not apply to the two hours of study in prepackaged soft contact lens dispensing that a spectacle dispensing optician must complete by December 31 of the year the license is received. The act also requires the Board to permit continuing education programs to be conducted in person or through electronic or other self-study means.

### **Ordering optical aids**

(R.C. 4725.40)

The act specifies that "optical dispensing" does not include placing an order for the delivery of any optical aid, thereby excluding that action from any licensing requirements.

