

# OREGON BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

## Council on Optometric Nontopical Formulary Meeting

*October 26, 2005*

Present - Robert W. Boyce, R.Ph.  
Robert Bentley, M.D.  
Linda Casser, O.D.  
George Cioffi, M.D.  
John Stiger, D.O.  
Candace Hamel, O.D.

David Plunkett, Executive Director  
Cathy Boudreau, Administrative Assistant

### CALL TO ORDER -

Chairman Robert Boyce called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Oregon Board of Optometry office at 1900 Hines Street SE, Salem, OR 97302.

### INTRODUCTIONS -

Mr. Boyce introduced himself, as did the other members of the council. It was noted that Leland Carr, O.D., representative for Pacific University College of Optometry, was absent due to illness. Mr. Boyce stated that he had called for this meeting of the Nontopical Formulary Council in order to assess the progress in implementing the formulary.

### CURRENT BUSINESS -

#### History of the Optometric Nontopical Formulary Council -

Mr. Plunkett recounted the history of the nontopical formulary council, beginning with the establishment of the council by the legislature through the implementation of the formulary by the Oregon Board of Optometry.

#### Board Implementation of the Optometric Nontopical Formulary -

Mr. Plunkett reviewed the implementation of the optometric nontopical formulary by the Oregon Board of Optometry. He reviewed a table which listed the major time lines of the implementation from April 9, 2002, when the Council adopted the formulary, to the present. There are currently 340 optometric physicians licensed in Oregon who have been certified by the Board to use advanced therapeutics on the nontopical formulary. This represents 58% of the optometric physicians licensed and practicing in Oregon (590).

#### Number of Optometric Physicians Certified in Oregon and Their Location-

Mr. Plunkett referred the council to a handout of a table which lists by county the numbers of optometrists who are currently certified to use, administer, and prescribe the nontopical formulary. This table lists by practice location in each county the number of optometric physicians and the number that are AT certified by the Board. He pointed out that thirty-one out of thirty-six counties

have AT coverage at this time.

## **Review of Complaints to the Oregon Board of Optometry That Involved the Formulary -**

Mr. Plunkett noted that the Board of Optometry has not had any complaints to date regarding misuse of the formulary. Dr. Stiger stated that he is not aware of any complaints that the Board of Medical Examiners has received regarding the use of the formulary by optometrists.

## **Discussion -**

Dr. Hamel stated briefly that there seems to be a large interest in use of the formulary and broad implementation. She discussed the course work that was required for certification. Dr. Casser noted that the course which was required for certification by existing optometrists mirrored the School of Optometry curriculum. She circulated a copy of the current curriculum which is required for the class of 2009.

Dr. Cioffi expressed a concern that optometry students are performing injections upon each other. It is his opinion that students should be performing these procedures on patients with a morbidity that justifies the injection rather than on healthy eyes.

Mr. Boyce asked what occurs in the case of a practitioner who has passed the didactic portion, but fails the injection lab. He asked how many times this person may retake the course. Dr. Hamel explained that the injection lab is a pass-all or fail-all course in which several stations must be successfully completed. A physician may retake the course as many times as is necessary to pass. Dr. Cioffi asked whether a physician who is not interested in performing injections could be certified to prescribe oral medications only. Dr. Hamel explained that the requirements are that they become certified for the whole formulary, or not at all. Dr. Cioffi expressed again his opinion that the practice of injecting one another is unwarranted and urged that the practice be reexamined. Dr. Bentley stated that doctors who are not interested in performing injections might be certified to prescribe the oral drugs in the formulary.

Dr. Stiger asked what the real utilization has been for the formulary. How many times have injections been performed, and is it really necessary for injections to be a privilege. Dr. Hamel conjectured that it's likely that more oral prescriptions are issued than injections are being done, but that injections are being used in some conditions. Dr. Bentley asked whether there has been a survey of the AT certified doctors about their implementation. He also acknowledged that it would be difficult for the Board to regulate a new level of certification that restricts injections.

Dr. Casser noted that the national trend is toward full implementation of systemic formularies and agreed that the OBO would have difficulty monitoring a new level of certification. In addition, the public would be confused by not knowing what level of care their physician could perform.

Mr. Boyce stated that the Board might consider allowing optometrists to be certified to use only oral pharmaceutical agents, which may encourage more doctors in the rural areas to become certified. He suggested that the Board survey the licensees to determine the actual formulary usage and to determine whether doctors would become certified for orals if it did not require the injection certification. Dr. Cioffi agreed with the suggestion.

Dr. Hamel explained that the Board of Optometry is working toward one level of licensure which they feel is in the best interest of the public. To create another level of certification would not be in keeping with the objective of one level of licensure.



Dr. Stiger asked whether the OD's are qualified to perform the procedures that require anesthesia and how the doctors were trained to handle allergic reactions. Dr. Hamel explained the training which is included in the nontopical formulary workshops regarding these questions.

Mr. Boyce asked whether there are any re-credentialing requirements for injections. Dr. Hamel noted that there is not at this time. She inquired what the Board of Medical examiners required in the way of re-certification. Dr. Bentley explained that there is a move toward re-certification in the medical communities.

Dr. Cioffi made a motion that the Council recommend to the Board of Optometry that they conduct a survey of licensees to accomplish the following: 1) assess utilization of the formulary; 2) ascertain the preference of optometrists regarding a split in certification, and 3) inquire as to adverse events in the use of the formulary. Dr. Bentley seconded the motion. Dr. Casser commented that the motion is beyond the scope of the Council. The vote was three in favor of the motion: Dr.'s Bentley, Stiger and Cioffi; and two opposed, Dr.'s Casser and Hamel. In the absence of a tie vote, the chairman abstained. The motion passed and the recommendation will be made to the Board of Optometry.

Mr. Boyce noted that the comments received by the Council from optometric physicians in preparation for this meeting have been favorable. Dr. Bentley mentioned that the OBO should be complimented for the implementation of the formulary and the fact that there have been no complaints to date. All were in agreement.

#### **Procedure to call a meeting in the future -**

Mr. Boyce discussed the procedure for calling a meeting of the Council in the future. The Council chairperson has authority to call a meeting, or one may be called at the request of two or more members of the Council.

Dr. Bentley asked how members are to be reappointed. Mr. Plunkett mentioned that he had not contacted the represented groups on the Council to notify them of an expiration in a Council member's term, other than the Board of Medical Examiners. The individual Council members should bring it to the attention of their appointing agency if they wish to be reappointed or replaced. After a brief discussion, Mr. Plunkett said that he would write a letter to the represented groups regarding the expiration of appointee's terms. He indicated that the Oregon Board of Optometry and the Board of Medical Examiners had appointed new Council members because their representatives to the Council were no longer board members.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There was no further business to come before the Council and Dr. Cioffi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Bentley seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion and Mr. Boyce adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Prepared by,

Reviewed by:

Catherine M. Boudreau  
Administrative Assistant

David W. Plunkett  
Executive Director