



POLICY: DIAGNOSTIC PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS (DPA)

Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents (DPAs) and their use have been taught in undergraduate courses and used in Queensland since 1985.

Section 170(1) of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* provides that "to the extent necessary to practise optometry", an optometrist who has successfully completed a certified course of training is authorised "to obtain...or administer or possess at the place where the optometrist practises optometry" certain registered restricted (Schedule 4) drugs (DPAs).

The Board considers that DPA is the standard practice for optometrists and has recommended optometrists without DPA qualifications registered with the Optometrists Board of Queensland consider enrolling in an accredited DPA course on the use of diagnostic drugs by optometrists.

Courses have been run to enable those optometrists not DPA endorsed to upskill in this area.

If you are not sure of your DPA status please contact the Board's office on telephone (07) 3247 4862, fax (07) 3225 2527 or email optometry@healthregboards.qld.gov.au.