

**Subject** Practice of optometry

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**Date** March 24, 2025

## Overview

This bill modifies the scope of practice for optometrists related to the administration of legend drugs intramuscularly or by injection and the prescription or administration of oral steroids, oral antivirals, and oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Optometry defined.</b></p> <p>Amends § 148.56, subd. 1. Modifies optometrist scope of practice as follows:</p> <p>Under current law optometrists are not permitted to administer legend drugs intramuscularly or by injection, except to treat anaphylaxis. The amendment to para. (b), cl. (1), would allow optometrists to administer legend drugs intramuscularly or by injection but would prohibit sub-Tenon injections (injection into the space between the white of the eye and the membrane that lines the eye socket), retrobulbar injections (injection of a local anesthetic into the area behind the eye globe), or intravitreal injections (injections into the vitreous humor, the gel that fills the inside of the eye).</p> <p>Under current law optometrists are not permitted to administer or prescribe oral steroids. The amendment to para. (b), cl. (3) and (4), would allow optometrists to administer or prescribe oral steroids for up to 14 days; to administer or prescribe for more than 14 days a physician consultation would be required.</p> <p>Under current law optometrists are not permitted to prescribe or administer oral antivirals for more than ten days or to prescribe or administer oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (medications for glaucoma and other diseases) for more than seven days. The amendment to para. (b), cl (4) and (5), would allow optometrists to prescribe or administer oral antivirals and oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors without a limit on the number of days.</p>



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