



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 34
[2015 Senate Bill 74]

**Prescriptions for Controlled
Substances by Optometrists**

Optometrists who satisfy criteria established by the Optometry Examining Board (OEB) may prescribe, dispense, or administer certain therapeutic pharmaceutical agents, as specified in the statutes. The authorization applies to schedule III, IV, and V controlled substances, to the extent they are permitted for use by licensed optometrists under rules promulgated by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS).

Act 34 allows optometrists who satisfy the criteria established by OEB for using therapeutic pharmaceutical agents to also prescribe, dispense, or administer hydrocodone, to the extent permitted under rules promulgated by DSPS, and within dosage limits specified in the Act. Additionally, the Act authorizes DSPS to promulgate emergency rules, without a requirement to provide evidence of necessity, to account for the use of hydrocodone by licensed optometrists prior to the effective date of any corresponding permanent rules.

Effective date: July 3, 2015

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.