



WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

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West Virginia Board of Optometry Drug Formulary Board Approved September 18, 2026

A licensed Optometrist in West Virginia with the suffix **–IOD** at the end of his/her license number is authorized to administer pharmaceuticals by injection for the eye and its appendages governed by W. Va. Code §30-8-15, Injection of Pharmaceutical Agents and W. Va. Code R. §14-11-1 *et al.*

W. Va. Code § 30-8-6(a)(9) authorizes the West Virginia Board of Optometry to develop a formulary of categories of oral drugs to be considered rational to diagnosis and treatment of visual defects or abnormal conditions of the human eye and its appendages from Schedule III, IV and V.

West Virginia injection administration certified optometrists are permitted to use the following drug classes set forth in W. Va. Code §§30-8-9 and 30-8-14, and W. Va. Code R. § 14-2-7.2:

- 7.2.1. Antibiotics
- 7.2.2. Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs
- 7.2.3. Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors
- 7.2.4. Antihistamines
- 7.2.5. Corticosteroids
- 7.2.6. Analgesics
- 7.2.7. Nutritional Supplements

W. Va. Code R. § 14-2-7.2.8-9 allows the Board to approve and add new drugs or new drug indications from Schedules III, IV and V to the drug formulary that “have been shown to be effective in the examination, diagnosis or treatment of diseases and conditions of the human eye and its appendages” according to the provisions of W. Va. Code §§30-8-9 and 30-8-14.

Furthermore, W. Va. Code R. § 14-11-7 outlines the Injectable Pharmaceutical Agents Certificate Treatment Guidelines, including a list of approved sites and agents for the administration of pharmaceuticals by injection in compliance with all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines pertaining to administration of injections.

Board Approved injection sites and agents for the administration of pharmaceuticals by injection include:

- Subconjunctival area when clinically appropriate
- Eyelid and periocular area when clinically appropriate

Board Approved treatment guidelines for each agent approved for injection include:

- **Antibiotics** may be injected into the subconjunctival space, eyelid, or periocular area as clinically appropriate to treat bacterial infection of the eye, eyelid, or ocular adnexa.
- **Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory drugs** may be injected into the subconjunctival space, eyelid, or periocular area as clinically appropriate to treat inflammation of the eye, eyelid, or ocular adnexa.
- **Corticosteroids** may be injected into the subconjunctival space, eyelid, or periocular area as clinically appropriate to treat inflammation of the eye, eyelid, or ocular adnexa or for the treatment of chalazion.

- **Neurotoxins** (including, but not limited to botox, onabotulinumtoxinA, incobotulinumtoxiA, or generic equivalent) may be injected to treat blepharospasm.
- **Anesthetics** including sympathomimetics with or without epinephrine may be injected into the eyelid or periocular area for local anesthesia prior to procedures on the eyelid or periocular area.

W. Va. Code R. §14-11-8 also requires Injectable Pharmaceutical Agents Certificate holders comply with reporting requirements, including but not limited to, maintaining a logbook of all injections administered. Please review W. Va. Code R. § 14-11-7 in its entirety for all applicable reporting requirements as well as stated restrictions certificate holders should know.

With the passage of SB565 during the 2025 Legislative Session, which became effective July 9, 2025, licensed Optometrists in West Virginia can perform laser procedures once education and proctoring requirements are met.

For West Virginia laser-certified optometrists, Board approved treatment guidelines for laser procedures include:

- **Schedule IV Benzodiazepine drug lorazepam (Ativan)** can be utilized for a one-time, one-dose administration per procedure as needed to complete ophthalmic treatments.

Important References:

W. Va. Code §§ 30-8-6, 30-8-9, and 30-8-14

W. Va. Code R. § 14-2-1 *et al.*

W. Va. Code R. § 14-11-1 *et al.*

References are available by contacting the Board office or visiting the following websites:

- West Virginia Code: <https://code.wvlegislature.gov/30-8/>
- Rules available from the Office of the West Virginia Secretary of State: <https://apps.sos.wv.gov/adlaw/csr/>

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Board office by phone at (304) 558-5901 or email.