

California Optometry Laws and Regulations Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. How is "temporary practice" defined for ODs in California?**
 - A. Practice away from the main location for not more than 14 days a year**
 - B. Practice at multiple locations simultaneously**
 - C. Practice away from the principal office for not more than 5 days in 30 days**
 - D. There is no limit on temporary practice days**
- 2. A person located outside California may ship contact lenses to a patient in California if they are registered with which organization?**
 - A. California Department of Health**
 - B. State Board of Optometry of California**
 - C. National Optometry Association**
 - D. California Medical Board**
- 3. Why is it important for an OD to understand the definition of "dispense"?**
 - A. To increase sales revenue**
 - B. To ensure compliance with regulations**
 - C. To qualify for government grants**
 - D. To improve personal branding**
- 4. Which procedure can TPA certified ODs perform related to corneal conditions?**
 - A. Corneal scraping and culture**
 - B. Dilation and curettage**
 - C. Surgical corneal transplants**
 - D. Emergency enucleation**
- 5. True or False: It is unlawful to make misleading statements such as false expectations of results.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Depends on the context**
 - D. Not mentioned in the law**

- 6. For a minor, patient records must be maintained until they reach what age?**
- A. 16**
 - B. 18**
 - C. 19**
 - D. 21**
- 7. Under what condition is a healthcare licentiate not required to dispense legally prescribed drugs or devices?**
- A. If the drug/device is not in stock**
 - B. If it may cause harmful interactions**
 - C. If the patient is under 18**
 - D. If the prescriber is out of state**
- 8. Who has the authority to prescribe ophthalmic or contact lenses, or plano contact lenses?**
- A. Optometrist only**
 - B. Physician and surgeon only**
 - C. Both a physician and surgeon or optometrist**
 - D. Registered nurse**
- 9. A duly licensed _____ can serve as a CLIA director of a laboratory and may perform only clinical laboratory tests as authorized.**
- A. Optometrist**
 - B. Physician**
 - C. OD**
 - D. Laboratory technician**
- 10. Which of the following statements is true regarding the board's authority over rules and regulations?**
- A. The board may adopt rules relating to price fixing.**
 - B. The board can amend regulations regarding advertising of commodities.**
 - C. The board is prohibited from adopting rules pertaining to price fixing.**
 - D. The board can repeal any regulations regardless of their content.**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. C
9. C
10. C

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Explanations

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1. How is "temporary practice" defined for ODs in California?

- A. Practice away from the main location for not more than 14 days a year**
- B. Practice at multiple locations simultaneously**
- C. Practice away from the principal office for not more than 5 days in 30 days**
- D. There is no limit on temporary practice days**

In California, "temporary practice" for optometrists is specifically defined as practice away from the principal office for not more than five days in any 30-day period. This regulation allows optometrists to provide care in situations where they may be working in different locations, such as at specific events or through outreach programs, without needing to establish a permanent office in every location they visit. This definition provides a structured framework for how optometrists can operate temporarily, ensuring that they remain compliant with state laws while also allowing flexibility in their practice. Adhering to this five-day limit promotes both accountability and quality of care, enabling optometrists to manage their schedules while maintaining proper oversight of their practice activities. The other responses do not align with this specific regulation, as they either suggest longer durations than permitted or imply unrestricted practice activities that would not be compliant with California's optometric laws. Understanding this precise definition is crucial for optometrists practicing in California to ensure they meet legal requirements while engaging in temporary practice.

2. A person located outside California may ship contact lenses to a patient in California if they are registered with which organization?

- A. California Department of Health**
- B. State Board of Optometry of California**
- C. National Optometry Association**
- D. California Medical Board**

A person located outside California must be registered with the State Board of Optometry of California to ship contact lenses to a patient residing in California. This requirement is in place to ensure that all optometric practices, including the distribution of contact lenses, adhere to California's regulations aimed at protecting public health and safety. The State Board of Optometry oversees the practice of optometry in California and establishes regulations that ensure that only licensed and qualified individuals and organizations can engage in the sale and distribution of optometric products like contact lenses. By requiring outside providers to register with the State Board, California can maintain control over the quality and safety of contact lenses shipped into the state. The other organizations mentioned do not have the authority or responsibility for regulating the shipping of contact lenses specifically. The California Department of Health focuses on broader public health matters, the National Optometry Association serves a professional advocacy role rather than regulatory, and the California Medical Board pertains to the licensing and regulation of physicians, not optometrists or contact lens distributors. Hence, registration with the State Board of Optometry is crucial for compliance with California's optometric laws.

3. Why is it important for an OD to understand the definition of "dispense"?

- A. To increase sales revenue
- B. To ensure compliance with regulations**
- C. To qualify for government grants
- D. To improve personal branding

Understanding the definition of "dispense" is crucial for an optometrist (OD) primarily to ensure compliance with regulations. In the context of optometry, dispensing refers to the act of providing patients with corrective lenses, spectacles, or other optical aids after an eye examination. There are specific legal regulations that govern how optometrists can dispense these items, including licensing requirements, proper documentation, and adherence to standards of care to ensure patient safety. By being well-versed in these definitions and associated regulatory frameworks, an OD can avoid potential legal issues and ensure that their practice operates within the law. This knowledge helps in protecting the practice from violations that could lead to penalties or loss of license. Thus, understanding "dispense" aligns with the professional responsibility of providing safe and compliant care to patients. While increasing sales revenue, qualifying for government grants, or improving personal branding may have their own merits, they do not encompass the fundamental need for compliance that directly affects the legal operation of the optometry practice.

4. Which procedure can TPA certified ODs perform related to corneal conditions?

- A. Corneal scraping and culture**
- B. Dilation and curettage
- C. Surgical corneal transplants
- D. Emergency enucleation

TPA certified optometrists, or Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents certified optometrists, have the authority to manage a variety of corneal conditions, and one of the procedures they can perform is corneal scraping and culture. This procedure is particularly significant as it allows ODs to collect samples from the cornea in cases of infection or other corneal pathology, which can then be sent for microbiological analysis to help determine the appropriate treatment. Corneal scraping is a diagnostic tool that enables optometrists to identify specific infections, such as those caused by bacteria, fungi, or viruses, and thus provide timely and effective care. By being able to perform this procedure, TPA certified ODs contribute to enhancing patient outcomes in corneal disease management. Other procedures listed, such as dilation and curettage, surgical corneal transplants, and emergency enucleation, are typically outside the scope of practice for optometrists, as they often require more extensive surgical training or are performed in specialized medical settings. Understanding which procedures are permissible for TPA certified ODs is integral for practicing within the defined legal framework of optometry in California.

5. True or False: It is unlawful to make misleading statements such as false expectations of results.

A. True

B. False

C. Depends on the context

D. Not mentioned in the law

Making misleading statements, including those that create false expectations of results, is indeed unlawful in the practice of optometry in California. This is rooted in ethical standards and regulations that govern healthcare providers, which mandate that practitioners must provide accurate and truthful information to their patients.

Misleading statements can undermine patient trust and can lead to harmful outcomes, as patients make decisions based on incorrect or exaggerated information. Regulatory bodies, such as the California Board of Optometry, enforce these standards to ensure that patients are treated with integrity and professionalism. Violations can result in disciplinary actions against the optometrist, reinforcing the commitment to ethical conduct in patient care.

6. For a minor, patient records must be maintained until they reach what age?

A. 16

B. 18

C. 19

D. 21

In California, patient records for minors must be maintained until the minor reaches the age of 19. This rule is in place to ensure that comprehensive medical history is available until a young adult can independently manage their healthcare decisions. The rationale behind this regulation is to extend the duration of record retention to allow for ongoing care and follow-up, which is particularly important for minors as they transition into adulthood. This requirement is part of the overarching laws governing healthcare provider responsibilities towards patient records, emphasizing the importance of continuity of care and accessibility to medical information for young patients as they develop into responsible adults. It ensures that all relevant medical history is retained for the appropriate period, allowing for informed decision-making in future healthcare encounters.

7. Under what condition is a healthcare licentiate not required to dispense legally prescribed drugs or devices?

- A. If the drug/device is not in stock**
- B. If it may cause harmful interactions**
- C. If the patient is under 18**
- D. If the prescriber is out of state**

The condition under which a healthcare licentiate is not required to dispense legally prescribed drugs or devices is when there is a potential for harmful interactions. This is an important safety concern in the practice of optometry and other healthcare fields, as the primary responsibility of the healthcare provider is to ensure the safety and well-being of the patient. If a prescribed drug or device presents a risk of adverse interactions with other medications the patient is taking, or if it could exacerbate a medical condition, the healthcare licentiate must take appropriate actions, which may include not dispensing the drug/device and discussing alternatives or referrals with the prescriber. In contrast, the other situations mentioned do not cover the same level of safety concern. Not having a drug or device in stock does not contribute to the patient's safety regarding potential adverse effects; it's simply a matter of inventory. A patient's age, in this context, is not a sufficient reason to refuse to dispense medication unless specific legal restrictions are in place, which typically wouldn't apply broadly. Similarly, a prescriber being out of state does not inherently negate the need to dispense the prescribed medication, as long as the prescription is valid and within legal parameters. Therefore, the correct answer highlights the critical aspect of patient safety in dispensing practices.

8. Who has the authority to prescribe ophthalmic or contact lenses, or plano contact lenses?

- A. Optometrist only**
- B. Physician and surgeon only**
- C. Both a physician and surgeon or optometrist**
- D. Registered nurse**

The authority to prescribe ophthalmic or contact lenses, including plano contact lenses, lies with both optometrists and physicians and surgeons. This reflects the scope of practice for both professions within California's healthcare system. Optometrists are trained specifically in the examination and correction of vision, making them qualified to prescribe lenses. Similarly, licensed physicians and surgeons, particularly those specializing in eye care, have the requisite knowledge to provide prescriptions for lenses. Understanding the collaborative nature of eye care in California is crucial, as both professionals play distinct yet complementary roles in the management of visual health. This joint authority ensures that patients have access to qualified providers who can meet their vision correction needs effectively. The inclusion of both optometrists and physicians reinforces the importance of comprehensive eye care and provides patients with more options for their eye health needs.

9. A duly licensed _____ can serve as a CLIA director of a laboratory and may perform only clinical laboratory tests as authorized.

A. Optometrist

B. Physician

C. OD

D. Laboratory technician

The role of a CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) director requires specific qualifications and is closely related to the type of clinical laboratory tests that can be performed. In California, an OD (Doctor of Optometry) is considered a licensed healthcare professional who has received specialized training in ocular health and vision care. This training, in conjunction with state regulations, allows ODs to serve in the capacity of a CLIA laboratory director. Ocular testing and certain lab procedures can fall under the purview of optometrists, particularly tests related to vision and eye health. ODs have completed education that aligns with performing clinical laboratory tests as may be authorized by state law, making them eligible for this responsibility. While physicians are also able to serve as CLIA directors and have broader authority regarding various medical tests, the specific context of the question seems to focus on the optometry profession and the capability of ODs in laboratory settings. The other options—optometrists, laboratory technicians, or general physicians—do not align as closely with the specific authorization and training required for the types of tests linked to a clinical laboratory operated by ODs. Thus, the identification of ODs as qualified personnel to serve as CLIA laboratory directors comes from their extensive education

10. Which of the following statements is true regarding the board's authority over rules and regulations?

A. The board may adopt rules relating to price fixing.

B. The board can amend regulations regarding advertising of commodities.

C. The board is prohibited from adopting rules pertaining to price fixing.

D. The board can repeal any regulations regardless of their content.

The correct interpretation of the board's authority over rules and regulations is that it is prohibited from adopting rules pertaining to price fixing. This is consistent with the principles of fair competition and consumer protection in the marketplace. Price fixing, which involves agreeing to set prices at a certain level rather than allowing market forces to dictate prices, is generally viewed as anti-competitive conduct and can lead to legal repercussions under antitrust laws. This prohibition aligns with the broader objective of ensuring that regulatory actions promote fair and open competition, which ultimately benefits consumers by allowing them to benefit from competitive pricing. The authority of boards, such as the California Board of Optometry, is typically geared towards regulating the practice of optometry, ensuring patient safety, and maintaining professional standards rather than engaging in practices that could manipulate market pricing. Understanding this distinction is vital for navigating the regulations pertaining to optometry and related fields.