



SAPC e-Note



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Dear Pharmacist,

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The South African Pharmacy Council (hereafter “Council”) has recently received concerns regarding the issuing of prescriptions by optometrists, some of which may fall **outside the scope** of prescribing permitted.

Council wishes to remind pharmacists of their regulatory obligation to dispense medicines only when prescribed by an authorised prescriber, and in accordance with that prescriber’s scope of practice, in line with the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965 (“Medicines Act”).

The following should be taken into consideration when dispensing prescriptions:

- (a) Regulation 33(4) of the General Regulations made in terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965 (“Medicines Act”), which requires you to **verify the legitimacy, authority, and appropriateness** of a prescription before dispensing;
- (b) Optometrists are authorised prescribers of **specified** scheduled substances and medicines in terms of Section 22A(14) of the Medicines Act, in accordance with their expanded scope of practice as determined by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and the [Schedules to the Medicines Act \(see Annexure 3\)](#); and
- (c) It is important to always confirm the prescriber’s registration with the HPCSA.

Yours sincerely,

VM Tlala
Registrar/CEO

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