



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs

New Jersey State Board of Optometrists

124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, P.O. Box 45012

Newark, New Jersey 07101

(973) 504-6440

Application for an Oral Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents (T.P.A.) Certification

A New Jersey optometrist must be licensed and certified in order to prescribe topical and/or oral medications. Under no circumstances should a New Jersey optometrist prescribe topical and/or oral medications without meeting all the requirements of the certification process, including the assignment of an oral medications (OM) number from the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists. A New Jersey Controlled Dangerous Substance (C.D.S.) number and a federal Drug Enforcement Agency (D.E.A.) number are required to prescribe controlled substances.

If you graduated from optometry school before 2005, and you have an **active** topical (T.P.A.) Certification, please see section "A" below.

If you graduated from optometry school after 2005, please see section "B" below.

If you graduated from optometry school before 2005, and/or you have a New Jersey optometry license **without** a topical T.P.A. certification, please see section "C" below.

Section A: If you graduated prior to 2005, and you have an active topical T.P.A. certification, the following process will pertain to you.

1. Required credentialing course:

You must complete a credentialing course as outlined in N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.3.

The credentialing course(s) as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.3(b) shall be offered by a school that is accredited by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council of Postsecondary Accreditation and approved by the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists to ensure that the credentialing course(s) cover the topics in N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.3(b).

Courses that will meet the requirements are currently being offered by the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry and the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (P.C.O.) at Salus University.

2. Passing a written examination following the coursework:

You must pass a test at the conclusion of the required coursework to be eligible to apply for your orals certification.

N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.2(b)3, "Verification that the applicant has successfully completed the educational requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.3(a) and (b). The applicant shall obtain the required verification from the school where the applicant completed the educational requirements."

N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.2(b)4, "Verification of test scores that the applicant has successfully passed the examination requirements as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.3 and 4.4."

3. Apply to the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists for certification to prescribe oral medications:

After completing the orals course and successfully passing the test, you can download the application for an oral T.P.A. certification at <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/optometry/> or send a written request for an application to the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, P.O. Box 45012, Newark, N.J. 07101.

4. Receive your New Jersey oral medications certificate:

Upon receipt of your application and completion of the application process, the Board will issue an oral T.P.A. certification number (OM).

Upon issuance of the oral T.P.A. certification from the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists you will have the authority to prescribe **nonscheduled** oral medications. Those medications would include medications such as oral antibiotics. **You are not authorized to prescribe any controlled medications (Class III, IV and V) such as analgesics until you receive a New Jersey Controlled Dangerous Substance (C.D.S.) number and a federal Drug Enforcement Agency (D.E.A.) number.**

In order to obtain a federal D.E.A. number, you will need to apply and qualify for a New Jersey C.D.S. number. You can obtain an application by going to the website for the Drug Control Unit at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/drug/dchome.htm or call (973) 504-6341.

* All licensed optometrists currently holding a Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents (T.P.A.) certification to prescribe topical medications must renew the topical (TO) certification. The \$250.00 T.P.A. renewal fee for topical medications will be applied as payment for the oral (OM) certification fee once you qualify. Therefore, at the time that you submit your application to prescribe oral medications you will only be responsible for the \$125.00 application fee if you renewed your topical certification.

5. Applying and receiving a D.E.A. number:

Upon receiving your oral medications certification, you will be eligible to apply for a New Jersey C.D.S. number and then you may be eligible to apply for a federal D.E.A. number. Information concerning the application can be found on the U.S. Department of Justice's D.E.A. website: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov.

The C.D.S. number and the D.E.A. number are not issued by the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists. Please do not call the State Board with questions concerning the C.D.S. and the D.E.A. number applications.

Upon receiving your New Jersey C.D.S. number and the D.E.A. number, you will be authorized to prescribe all oral medications as defined by [N.J.S.A. 45:12-1](#).

Section B: If you graduated after 2005, the following process will pertain to you.

If you graduated after 2005, you are eligible to apply to the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists for an oral T.P.A. certification number without any additional credentialing requirements.

1. Download an oral T.P.A. certification application at <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/optometry/> or send a written request for an application to the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, P.O. Box 45012, Newark, N.J. 07101.
2. Upon receipt of your application and completion of the application process, the Board will issue an oral T.P.A. certification number (OM).

Upon issuance of the oral T.P.A. certification from the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, you will have the authority to prescribe **nonscheduled** oral medications. Those medications would include medications such as oral antibiotics. **You are not authorized to prescribe any controlled medications (Class III, IV and V) such as analgesics until you receive a New Jersey C.D.S. number and a federal D.E.A. number.**

In order to obtain a federal D.E.A. number, you will need to apply and qualify for a New Jersey C.D.S. number. You can obtain an application by going to the website for the Drug Control Unit at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/drug/dchome.htm or call (973) 504-6341.

3. Upon receiving your oral medications certification, you will be eligible to apply for a New Jersey C.D.S. number and then you may be eligible to apply for a federal D.E.A. number. Information concerning the application can be found on the U.S. Department of Justice's D.E.A. website: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov.

The C.D.S. number and the D.E.A. number are not issued by the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists. Please do not call the State Board with questions concerning the C.D.S. and the D.E.A. number applications.

Upon receiving your New Jersey C.D.S. number and the D.E.A. number, you will be authorized to prescribe all oral medications as defined by [N.J.S.A. 45:12-1](#).

Section C: If you graduated prior to 2005, or if you are a New Jersey licensed optometrist who does not hold a topical T.P.A. certification regardless of the date of licensure, the following process will pertain to you.

1. Successfully pass the Comprehensive Topical Credential Course.
2. Successfully pass the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease Examination administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.
3. Required credentialing course:

You must complete a credentialing course as outlined in N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.3.

The credentialing course(s) as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.3(b) shall be offered by a school that is accredited by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council of Postsecondary Accreditation and approved by the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists to ensure that the credentialing course(s) cover the topics in N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.3(b).

Courses that will meet the requirements are currently being offered by the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry and the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (P.C.O.) at Salus University.

4. Passing a written examination following the coursework:

You must pass a test at the conclusion of the required coursework to be eligible to apply for your orals certification.

N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.2(b)3 - "Verification that the applicant has successfully completed the educational requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.3(a) and (b). The applicant shall obtain the required verification from the school where the applicant completed the educational requirements."

N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.2(b)4 - "Verification of test scores that the applicant has successfully passed the examination requirements as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:38-4.3 and 4.4."

5. Apply to the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists for certification to prescribe oral medications:

After completing the orals course and successfully passing the test, you can download the application for an oral T.P.A. certification at <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/optometry/> or send a written request for an application to the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, P.O. Box 45012, Newark, N.J. 07101.

6. Receive your New Jersey oral medications certificate:

Upon receipt of your application and completion of the application process, the Board will issue an oral T.P.A. certification number (OM).

Upon issuance of the oral T.P.A. certification from the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, you will have the authority to prescribe **nonscheduled** oral medications. Those medications would include medications such as oral antibiotics. **You are not authorized to prescribe any controlled medications (Class III, IV and V) such as analgesics until you receive a New Jersey C.D.S. number and a federal D.E.A. number.**

In order to obtain a federal D.E.A. number, you will need to apply and qualify for a New Jersey C.D.S. number. You can obtain an application by going to the website for the Drug Control Unit at www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/drug/dchome.htm or call (973) 504-6341.

7. Applying and receiving a D.E.A. number:

Upon receiving your oral medications certification, you will be eligible to apply for a New Jersey C.D.S. number and then you may be eligible to apply for a federal D.E.A. number. Information concerning the application can be found on the U.S. Department of Justice's D.E.A. website: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov.

The C.D.S. number and the D.E.A. number are not issued by the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists. Please do not call the State Board with questions concerning the C.D.S. and the D.E.A. number applications.

Upon receiving your New Jersey C.D.S. number and the D.E.A. number, you will be authorized to prescribe all oral medications as defined by N.J.S.A. 45:12-1.

Attach a clear, full-face passport-style photograph (2"x 2") of your head and shoulders, taken within the past six months.

A photo is required with each application.

Do not use staples to attach the photo.



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Application for an Oral T.P.A. Certification

A nonrefundable application filing fee of \$125, in the form of a check or money order made out to the State of New Jersey, must be submitted with this application. (Applicants should understand that if the application filing fee is paid with a personal check, and the check is returned by the bank due to insufficient funds, the next step in the licensure or certification process will be delayed until the fee is paid.)

The Oral T.P.A. Certification fee is \$250.00 if you are applying during the first year of a biennial renewal period (between May 1st of every odd year through April 30th of every even year). If you are applying for an Oral T.P.A. Certification during the second year of a biennial renewal period (between May 1st of every even year through April 30th of every odd year), your Oral T.P.A. Certification fee will be \$125.00. The Oral T.P.A. Certification fee must be submitted in the form of a check or money order made out to the State of New Jersey.

The Division is precluded by law from disclosing to the public the place of residence of licensees or applicants, without their consent. However, you are required to provide an address that may be released to the public in our directories or in response to other requests (by putting a check in the appropriate box). If you provide your place of residence as your public address of record, we will assume that you have consented to have that address be disclosed. If you do not consent to the disclosure of your place of residence, you should provide an address of record other than your place of residence that may be released to the public. One of your addresses must include a street, city, state and ZIP code.

Information that you provide on this application may be subject to public disclosure as required by the Open Public Records Act (OPRA).

Please print clearly. You must answer all of the questions on this application.

Personal Information

1. Name Dr. _____ (_____)
Last name First name Middle initial Maiden name

2. Address

Home: _____
Street or P.O. Box City State ZIP code County

Telephone number (include area code) E-mail address (optional)

Mailing: _____
Street or P.O. Box City State ZIP code County

Main office: _____
Street address City State ZIP code County

Telephone number (include area code)

Branch 1 office address and telephone number _____

Branch 2 office address and telephone number _____

3. I have completed the educational credentialing requirements in Oral Pharmacology from the approved credentialing institution.

Name of institution
on _____
Month Day Year

4. Are you licensed to use and prescribe therapeutic pharmaceutical agents (T.P.A.s) in any other state? Yes No
If "Yes," please provide the information requested below:

State(s) _____ T.P.A. Issue Date(s) _____

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION (EXCEPT SIGNATURES).

5. Social Security Number

You **must** provide your Social Security number to the Board or Committee. Failure to do so will result in denial/nonrenewal of licensure or certification.

*Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

*Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:50-24 et seq. of the New Jersey taxation law, N.J.S.A. 2A:17-56.44e of the New Jersey Child Support Enforcement Law, Section 1128E(b)(2)A of the Social Security Act and 45 C.F.R. 60.7,60.8 and 60.9, the Board or Committee is required to obtain your Social Security number. Pursuant to these authorities, the Board or Committee is also obligated to provide your Social Security number to:

- a. the Director of Taxation to assist in the administration and enforcement of any tax law, including for the purpose of reviewing compliance with State tax law and updating and correcting tax records;
- b. the Probation Division or any other agency responsible for child support enforcement, upon request; and
- c. the National Practitioner Data Bank and the H.I.P. Data Bank, when reporting adverse actions relating to health care professionals.

6. Citizenship / Immigration Status

Federal law limits the issuance or renewal of professional or occupational licenses or certificates to U.S. citizens or qualified aliens. To comply with this federal law, check the appropriate box below which indicates your citizenship/immigration status. If you are not a U.S. citizen, attach a copy of your alien registration card (front and back) or other documentation issued by the office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

- U.S. citizen
- Alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in U.S.
- Other immigration status

Questions about your immigration status and whether or not it is a qualifying status under federal law should be directed to the USCIS at: 1-800-375-5283.

7. Child Support

Please certify, under penalty of perjury, the following:

- a. Do you currently have a child-support obligation? Yes No
 - (1) If "Yes," are you in arrears in payment of said obligation? Yes No
 - (2) If "Yes," does the arrearage match or exceed the total amount payable for the past six months? Yes No
- b. Have you failed to provide any court-ordered health insurance coverage during the past six months? Yes No
- c. Have you failed to respond to a subpoena relating to either a paternity or child-support proceeding? Yes No
- d. Are you the subject of a child-support-related arrest warrant? Yes No

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 2A:17-56.44d, an answer of "Yes" to any of the questions a(1) through d will result in a denial of licensure or certification. Furthermore, any false certification of the above may subject you to a penalty, including, but not limited to, immediate revocation or suspension of licensure or certification.

Applicant's name (please print)

Applicant's signature

Date

8. Illegal Use of Controlled Dangerous Substances

The question below pertains to the illegal use of controlled dangerous substances. Please read the definitions carefully. Your responses will be treated confidentially and retained separately. Please be aware that you have the right to elect not to answer this question if you have reasonable cause to believe that answering may expose you to the possibility of criminal prosecution. In that event, you may assert the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. Any claim of Fifth Amendment privilege must be made in good faith. If you choose to assert the Fifth Amendment, you must do so in writing. You must fully respond to all other questions on the application. Your application for licensure or certification will be processed if you claim the Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. You should be aware, however, that you may later be directed by the Attorney General to answer a question that you have refused to answer on the basis on the Fifth Amendment, provided that the Attorney General first grants you immunity afforded by statutory law, (N.J.S.A. 45:1-20).

“Currently” does not mean on the day of, or even in the weeks or months preceding the completion of this application. Rather, it means recently enough so that the use of drugs may have an ongoing impact on one’s functioning as a licensee, or within the previous 365 days, whichever is longer.

“Illegal use of controlled dangerous substance” means the use of a controlled dangerous substance obtained illegally (e.g. heroin or cocaine) as well as the use of controlled dangerous substances which are not obtained pursuant to a valid prescription or not taken in accordance with the directions of a licensed health care practitioner.

- a. Are you currently engaged in the illegal use of controlled dangerous substances? (As stated above, “currently” is defined as “recently enough... [to] have an ongoing impact...” or “within the previous 365 days,” whichever is longer.)

Yes No

If you answered “Yes,” are you currently participating in a supervised rehabilitation program or professional assistance program that monitors you in order to assure that you are not engaging in the illegal use of controlled dangerous substances?

Yes No

Applicant’s signature

Date

9. Have you ever changed your name? Yes No
 If "Yes," please submit with this application a copy of the marriage certificate, divorce decree or court order.
10. Have you ever been summoned; arrested; taken into custody; indicted; tried; charged with; admitted into pre-trial intervention (P.T.I.); or pled guilty to any violation of law, ordinance, felony, misdemeanor or disorderly persons offense, in New Jersey, any other state, the District of Columbia or in any other jurisdiction? (Parking or speeding violations need not be disclosed, but motor vehicle violations such as driving while impaired or intoxicated must be.) Yes No
11. Have you ever been convicted of any crime or offense under any circumstances? This includes, but is not limited to, a plea of guilty, non vult, nolo contendere, no contest, or a finding of guilt by a judge or jury. Yes No
 If "Yes," provide a copy of the judgment of conviction and the release from parole or probation. Please provide a complete explanation. (Attach additional sheets of paper to this application.)
12. Do you currently hold, or have you ever held a professional license or certificate of **any** kind in New Jersey, any other state, the District of Columbia or in any other jurisdiction? Yes No

If "Yes," for each license or certificate held, provide the date(s) held and the number(s). If the license or certificate was issued under a different name, please provide that name. _____

		Last name	First name	Middle initial
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Type of license or certificate	Number	State or jurisdiction that issued the license or certificate		Date issued/expired
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Type of license or certificate	Number	State or jurisdiction that issued the license or certificate		Date issued/expired
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Type of license or certificate	Number	State or jurisdiction that issued the license or certificate		Date issued/expired
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Type of license or certificate	Number	State or jurisdiction that issued the license or certificate		Date issued/expired

13. Have you ever been disciplined or denied a professional license or certificate of any kind in New Jersey, any other state, the District of Columbia or in any other jurisdiction? Yes No
14. Have you ever had a professional license or certificate of any type suspended, revoked or surrendered in New Jersey, any other state, the District of Columbia or in any other jurisdiction? Yes No
15. Has any action (including the assessment of fines or other penalties) ever been taken against your professional practice by any agency or certification board in New Jersey, any other state, the District of Columbia or in any other jurisdiction? Yes No
16. Have you ever been named as a defendant in any litigation related to the practice of optometry or other professional practice in New Jersey, any other state, the District of Columbia or in any other jurisdiction? Yes No
17. Are you aware of any investigation pending against a professional license or certificate issued to you by a professional board in New Jersey, any other state, the District of Columbia or in any other jurisdiction? Yes No
18. Are there any criminal charges now pending against you in New Jersey, any other state, the District of Columbia or in any other jurisdiction? Yes No
19. Have you ever been sanctioned by or is any action pending before any employer, association, society, or other professional group related to the practice of optometry or other professional practice in New Jersey, any other state, the District of Columbia or in any other jurisdiction? Yes No

If the answer to any of the above questions, numbers 13 through 19, is "Yes," provide a complete explanation of the circumstances leading to the action, and any supporting documentation, on separate sheets of paper.

AFFIDAVIT

This affidavit is to be executed by the applicant before a notary public:

State of: _____ }
County of: _____ } *ss.*

I, _____, in making this application to the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists for licensure or certification under the provisions of Title 45 of the General Statutes of New Jersey and the Rules of the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, swear (or affirm) that I am the applicant and that all information provided in connection with this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any omissions, inaccuracies or failure to make full disclosures may be deemed sufficient to deny licensure or certification or to withhold renewal of or suspend or revoke a license or certificate issued by the Board.

I further swear (or affirm) that I have read N.J.S.A. 45:12-1 et seq., together with the Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey State Board of Optometrists, N.J.A.C. 13:38-1.1, and fully understand that in receiving licensure or certification from the Board, I bind myself to be governed by them.

Furthermore, I voluntarily consent to a thorough investigation of my present and past employment and other activities for the purpose of verifying my qualifications for licensure or certification. I further authorize all institutions, employers, agencies and all governmental agencies and instrumentalities (local, state, federal or foreign) to release any information, files or records requested by the Board.

Applicant's signature

Sworn and subscribed to before me this _____

day of _____, _____
Month Year

Name of Notary Public (please print)

Signature of Notary Public

Affix Seal Here

Official Use Only

Dual License

License Type 1

Applicant's Number

License Type 2

Applicant's Number



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs

New Jersey State Board of Optometrists

P.O. Box 45012

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Official Use Only

Resubmit

Board or Committee

**CERTIFICATION AND AUTHORIZATION FORM
FOR A CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECK**

Directions: Answer all of the questions on this form.

1. Name Mr. _____ (_____)
 Mrs. _____ Last First Middle Maiden Name
 Ms.

2. Address _____
Street or P.O. Box City State ZIP code

3. Date of birth ____/____/____ Sex: Male Female
Month Day Year

4. Social Security number _____/_____/_____

5. Have you completed the fingerprinting process for any **Board or Committee of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs** since November 2003? Yes No

If "No," you will receive a separate mailing from the Board or Committee regarding the criminal history record background check process. No payment is necessary as of now.

If "Yes," please provide the following information and follow the instructions outlined below:

Board or committee requiring the fingerprinting

Month and year you were fingerprinted

If you were fingerprinted after November 2003 as part of the criminal history background process for licensure or certification by any other **Board or Committee of the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs** (a background check conducted for the Department of Education, another state agency or another state does not apply) you will not be required to be fingerprinted a second time. However, the Division must perform a criminal history background check each time you apply for licensure or certification. **The fee for this service is \$18.75.** Payment should be made in the form of a check or money order payable to the State of New Jersey and should accompany your application packet.

6. Have you ever been arrested and/or convicted of a crime or offense? (Minor traffic offenses such as a parking or speeding violations need not be listed.) Yes No

Every such conviction on record must be disclosed. A true copy of every police report, judgment of conviction, sentencing order and termination of probation order, if applicable, **must** be submitted with this form. Any documents (including employer or supervisor letters of reference, if applicable) which present clear and convincing evidence of rehabilitation **must** be submitted with this form. **Failure to follow these instructions may result in the denial of an initial application.**

Note: Copies of judgments, sentencing and termination of probation orders may be obtained from the clerk of the county where those orders, disposing of the conviction, were issued and filed.

Your continuing responsibility to disclose convictions of crimes or offenses: You **must** notify the Board or Committee within five (5) business days if you are convicted of any crimes or offenses after this form has been completed.

Continuation on the reverse side ➡

CERTIFICATION

I, _____, in making this application to the Board or Committee for certification or licensure, certify that I am the applicant and that all of the information provided in connection with this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any omissions, inaccuracies or failure to make full disclosures may be deemed sufficient to deny certification or licensure or to withhold renewal of or suspend or revoke a certificate or license issued by the Board or Committee.

I voluntarily consent to a thorough investigation of my present and past employment and other activities for the purpose of verifying my qualifications for certification or licensure. I further authorize all institutions, employers, agencies and all governmental agencies and instrumentalities (local, state, federal or foreign) to release any information, files or records requested by the Board or Committee.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Signature of applicant

Date