



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
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WSR 23-13-041

June 12, 2023

TO: Kathleen Buchli
Code Reviser

FROM: Tami Thompson *Tami M. Thompson*
Regulatory Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: Rescinding Board of Optometry Policy Statement OB 20-01.1, filed as WSR 23-06-036, a policy statement regarding continuing education requirements during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emergency response, impacting WAC 246-851-090, 246-851-125 and 246-851-170.

This memo serves as notice that the Board of Optometry (board) is rescinding policy statement OB 20-01.1 Continuing Education Requirements During the COVID-19 Response. The statement was originally filed on May 20, 2020, as WSR 20-11-068 and amended February 23, 2023, as WSR 23-06-036.

During the declared COVID 19 emergency, the policy statement allowed licensees unrestricted use of remote study or self-directed study methods to accrue up to the required total 50 hours of continuing education every two years. After May 11, 2023 those requirements return to a maximum of 10 hours of remote study and a maximum of 25 hours of self-directed study continuing education may count towards the total 50 hours, as described in WAC 246-851-125 and 246-851-170.

The board officially determined the policy statement be rescinded on May 11, 2023 at its March 10, 2023, business meeting. The policy statement was effective for the duration of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) federal declared emergency. The board is rescinding the policy statement because:

1. The end of the federal state of emergency as of May 11, 2023; and
2. A determination that optometrists again have adequate access to acceptable continuing education.

Individuals requiring information on this rule should contact Kristina Bell, Program Manager, at (360) 236-484, kristina.bell@doh.wa.gov. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

cc: Kristina Bell, Program Manager, Washington State Department of Health