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Important Notice: Additional Fees Effective April 1, 2014 to Implement the New Business and Professions Code section 208

Business and Professions Code section 208, regarding the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES), Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) was signed by the Governor and became effective January 1, 2014. The CURES/PDMP is a valuable tool for healthcare professionals as it allows pre-registered users including licensed healthcare prescribers eligible to prescribe controlled substances, optometrists authorized to dispense controlled substances, law enforcement, and regulatory boards to access timely patient controlled substance history information. The CURES/PDMP program assists healthcare professionals in identifying possible prescription drug abuse.

Business and Professions Code section 208 requires healthcare professionals who are authorized to prescribe or fill prescriptions for controlled substances to pay \$6.00 annually to support the CURES/PDMP. This fee will be collected at the time of a licensee's renewal. Effective April 1, 2014, all optometrists with TPA certification will see an additional \$12.00 added to their renewal fee (\$6.00 per year). The \$12.00 will be transferred to the State of California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General to fund the CURES/PDMP. Renewal notices sent out with an expiration date of April 30, 2014 and later will have to pay this fee, no matter when the renewal fee is submitted. Failure to pay these additional fees will result in the renewal not being issued.

The following is a breakdown of the fees, effective April 1, 2014, collected by the Board of Optometry at the time of an optometrist's license renewal:

1. Optometrist's license renewal fee:	\$425.00
2. CURES/PDMP fee:	\$12.00
Total fees:	\$437.00

In addition to the Board of Optometry, the Dental Board, the Medical Board, Board of Pharmacy, Veterinary Medical Board, Board of Registered Nursing, Physician Assistant Board, Osteopathic Medical Board, and the Board of Podiatric Medicine, will all be adding the required CURES/PDMP fees to their licensee's renewals effective April 1, 2014.

The Business and Professions Code section 208 can be found at the following link:

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/displaycode?section=bpc&group=00001-01000&file=200-210>