



## Immunizations by Optometrists

There has been a great deal of interest in the implementation of [Assembly Bill 443](#) (Salas, Chapter 549, Statutes of 2017), which would allow a TPA-Certified Optometrist to administer immunizations if the optometrist meets certain requirements and applies for certification from the Board.

At present, the Board is not accepting applications, course completion certificates or payments for the immunization certification.

Immunization applications and payments sent to the Board will not be processed and will be returned to the licensee. The Board is not allowed to accept these until regulation implementing AB 443 becomes law (anticipated Spring of 2020).

The procedure for the immunization certification is currently undergoing the regulatory rulemaking process. The Board approved text (describing the certification procedure) and a draft application form at the April 5, 2019 meeting, but this was the first step in the process and not the final approval. The final regulation, including the actual text and application form, will be made by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), not the Board.

Licensees who have taken or are enrolled for a course in immunizations meeting all necessary requirements are advised to maintain completion certifications for submission to the Board in Spring 2020. The proposed regulation does allow any course taken after October 1, 2018 to be retroactively accepted. However, OAL makes the final decision and may make changes to retroactive acceptance or other parts of the procedure submitted by the Board.

If you have any questions, please email the Board: [optometry@dca.ca.gov](mailto:optometry@dca.ca.gov)