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To: Dispensing Optician Committee Members **Date:** April 19, 2018

From: Jessica Sieferman **Telephone:** (916) 575-7184
Executive Officer

Subject: **Agenda Item 6 – Update, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding National Examinations: American Board of Opticianry, National Contact Lens Examiners, and the National Optician’s Practical Examination**

As previously discussed [here](#), the Dispensing Optician Committee (DOC) raised multiple concerns regarding the efficacy of the national examinations administered by the American Board of Opticianry. Some stated the current examinations are not applicable to California’s scope of practice and should not be included in the exam.

The DOC recommended the Board pursue an occupational analysis (OA) and linkage study of the national examinations. Details related to the OA proposal can be found [here](#). Contracts are being finalized and work should begin shortly.

During the November meeting, staff notified the DOC about another examination developed in 2012 by the National Commission of State Opticianry Regulatory Boards (NCSORB). As discussed in more detail [here](#), NCSORB administers the National Optician’s Practical Examination which covers Spectacles and Contact lenses.

Further research indicates the National Optician’s Practical Examination was not developed to replace the ABO/NCLE examinations. NCSORB explained that “many states require the ABO-NCLE as an eligibility pathway to opticianry along with a hands-on practical examination.”

Since California does not currently require a practical examination in addition to the ABO/NCLE exams, staff does not recommend adding another requirement or replacing this exam with the current requirements.

With that said, the DOC concerns with the current examinations remain. In February, the Executive Officer, DOC Chair, and Board staff met with ABO/NCLE’s Executive Director, Jim Morris, to discuss concerns and brainstorm potential solutions.

The ABO/NCLE is committed to addressing all concerns and is open to DOC suggestions for improving processes and providing clarifying information to California candidates.

Mr. Morris is attending the DOC meeting to collaborate with the members on this issue.