

Registration with the California Medical Board FAQs

If I am employed by an optometrist in CA do I need to register with the Medical Board in order to fit and adjust spectacle lenses or contact lenses?

California is **not a licensed** state for spectacle and contact lens dispensing. A person who works for an optometrist or physician is called a technician and **is not required to be registered** in California. The fitting and adjusting they perform are supervised by the attending physician or optometrist. These individuals work under the license of the doctor and will not be registered as a RSLD or RCLD with the medical board. All liability is covered under the physician's or optometrist's license. The RSLD & RCLD registration are for those individuals who work **outside** of an optometrist or ophthalmologist office.

What is a Registered Dispensing Optician?

A Registered Dispensing Optician (RDO) pertains to an office or establishment and is required for individuals, corporations, and firms engaged in the business of filling prescriptions of physicians and surgeons licensed by the Medical Board of California or optometrists licensed by the Board of Optometry for prescription lenses and related products. As a business an RDO needs to employ at least one Registered Spectacle Lens Dispenser (RSLD) to fit and adjust spectacle lenses and one Registered Contact Lens Dispenser (RCLD) to fit and adjust contact lenses.

What is a Spectacle Lens Dispenser?

A Spectacle Lens Dispenser is an individual that must be certified by the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) in order to be registered with the State of California Medical Board and must be employed by a Registered Dispensing Optician (Office/Business) to fit and adjust spectacle lenses at any place of business holding a Registered Dispensing Optician certificate. Provided that the certificate of the registered spectacle lens dispenser is displayed in a conspicuous place at the place of business where he or she is fitting and adjusting.

What is a Contact Lens Dispenser?

A Contact Lens Dispenser is an individual that has to be certified by the National Contact Lens Examiners (NCLE) to register with the State of California Medical Board and must be employed by a Registered Dispensing Optician (Office/Business) to fit and adjust contact lenses at any place of business holding a Registered Dispensing Optician certificate provided that the certificate of the registered contact lens dispenser is displayed in a conspicuous place at the place of business where he or she is fitting and adjusting.

Why would I need to be registered as a Spectacle Lens Dispenser (RSLD) or Contact Lens Dispenser (RCLD)?

You would only need to be registered with the California Medical board as a **RSLD** or **RCLD** if you are employed **outside** of an optometrist or ophthalmologist office to fit spectacle or contact lenses at any business holding a Registered Dispensing Optician certificate.

How do I get more information about becoming registered as either a Spectacle Lens Dispenser or Contact Lens Dispenser?

For more information about the Registered Dispensing Optician, Spectacle Lens Dispenser, or Contact Lens Dispenser Programs visit the California Medical Board website at: http://www.medbd.ca.gov/allied/RDO_Program.htm