

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

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## **Hearings on Regulations Related to Animal Technicians, Perfusionists and Optometrists**

**Lincoln** - The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, is holding hearings on proposed regulations related to the new licensing categories of animal therapists and perfusionists and on changes to regulations governing the licensure of optometrists.

The hearings will be held Thursday, December 12, in the State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, lower level conference room F.

### **Public Hearing at 1:00 p.m. CT**

This hearing is being held to accept comments on proposed new regulations for the licensure of animal therapists. An animal therapist is a licensed health care professional with additional training who can provide health care therapy on an animal upon a referral from a veterinarian.

The new regulations will establish the requirements for an initial credential, training standards, continuing competency and practice requirements, renewal and reinstatement requirements, provisions for discipline, administrative penalty provisions and fees.

### **Public Hearing at 2:30 p.m. CT**

This hearing is being held to accept comments on proposed changes to regulations for the licensure of optometrists to reflect the provisions of the Uniform Credentialing Act, which established uniform standards and processes for the licensure of health professions and occupations.

The proposed regulations also include recommendations from the Board of Optometry for changes to continuing competency requirements; certification to use pharmaceutical agents; and duties that can be delegated to optometric assistants.

### **Public Hearing at 3:30 p.m. CT**

This hearing is being held to accept comments on proposed new regulations for the licensure of perfusionists. A perfusionist is responsible for the management of circulatory and respiratory functions of a patient undergoing heart and other types of surgeries.

The new regulations will set out requirements for an initial credential, training standards, continuing competency requirements, renewal and reinstatement requirements, provisions for discipline and administrative penalty provisions.

Anyone may attend and comment at the hearing or submit comments in writing. Written comments will be given the same consideration as comments made in person. Written comments must be postmarked or received by 5:00 p.m. CT on the day of the hearing and should be sent to DHHS Legal Services, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 95026, Lincoln, NE 68509-5026, fax 402-742-2382, or e-mailed to [DHHS.RulesandRegs@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.RulesandRegs@nebraska.gov)

Draft regulations are available online at <http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs/regtrack/index.cgi>. Draft copies of the regulations are also available at the office of the Secretary of State, 402-471-2385, or call DHHS Legal Services at (402) 471-8223.