2021 AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

LETTER ASSIGNED: D   TITLE: Biomedical Therapy and the Role of Vision Rehabilitation

SOURCE: AOA Board of Trustees

STATUS: Referred to the House of Delegates

DATE: June 23, 2021   TIME: 9:45 a.m. MT

1 WHEREAS, the American Optometric Association (AOA) supports scientific discovery in
2      eye care, and
3 WHEREAS, recent research continues to show promise in biomedical therapies such as
4      epigenetics, gene therapy, and cell therapy to address eye disease and
5      blindness; and
6 WHEREAS, doctors of optometry play a key role in the provision of biomedical therapies;
7      and
8 WHEREAS, the AOA recognizes that individuals with visual impairment who improve in
9      measurable vision from multiple treatment regimens may continue to have
10     functional vision disorders which affect visual processing, and may have
11     problems performing activities of daily living; and
12 WHEREAS, vision rehabilitation is a process of care for individuals with vision
13     impairment(s) managed by doctors of optometry as part of the eye and vision
14     care continuum; and
15 WHEREAS, vision rehabilitation care and services managed by doctors of optometry
16     include multiple treatment options including the integration of treatment with
17     clinical therapy and the use of treatment to optimize visual functioning; and
18 WHEREAS, vision rehabilitation care and services managed by doctors of optometry
19     include counseling and assisting patients in performing activities of daily living
such as reading, learning, coping, ambulating safely, and pursuing activities associated with improved and protected individual health; and

WHEREAS, continued optometric care of the eyes, visual system, and diseases/conditions related to visual impairment must always continue parallel to the process of biomedical therapy assessment and administration; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the AOA inform the public and other stakeholders about the need for vision rehabilitation, as a part of continued eye care, when biomedical therapy is considered, recommended, or provided; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the AOA urge organizations, agencies, and providers of biomedical therapy to partner with doctors of optometry in order to best address evolving patient needs as patients are assessed, and as visual systems change when biomedical therapy is considered or administered.

THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED AS SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AS YOU CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

POSSIBLE FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: After consultation with the AOA Secretary/Treasurer, the potential cost to the AOA of this resolution, if adopted, would be approximately: Unknown.