



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS

CARSON KERR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2365 HARRODSBURG ROAD, SUITE A240

LEXINGTON, KY 40511

PHONE: (859) 246-2744

FAX: (859) 246-2746

November 22, 2022

The Honorable Shereef Elnahal, M.D.
Under Secretary for Health
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Room 800
Washington, DC 20420

To the Under Secretary for Health,

In 2011 the Kentucky Legislature passed Senate Bill 110 or the "Better Access to Quality Eye Care" bill. The Kentucky law became effective on June 8, 2011 and constituted an expansion of Optometrists' scope of practice which allowed Kentucky Optometrists to perform certain laser procedures, remove benign lesions from the eyelid and granted increased authority to allow medicines to be delivered by injections or other appropriate forms. The law also allowed the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners the authority to determine the scope of optometric practice in Kentucky outside of the procedures excluded in KRS 320.210. To date the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners has credentialed over 470 Optometrists to perform expanded therapeutic procedures. This law has been successful in delivering much needed medical eye care to underserved areas of the state as Optometrists credentialed in expanded therapeutic procedures practice in over 75% of Kentucky's 120 counties.

To date, there have been over 45,000 laser and surgical procedures performed in Kentucky by Optometrists. The Board of Optometric Examiners has received no complaints and has not heard of any adverse outcomes relating to the performance of this expanded scope of practice.

Furthermore, there was no increase in malpractice rates with the passage of SB110. There is no difference in malpractice rates between Optometrists in Kentucky who have extended therapeutic privileges and those who do not and there is no difference in malpractice rates between Kentucky Optometrists and Optometrists in surrounding states without extended therapeutic privileges.

I hope this information has been helpful and should you require any additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William T. Reynolds OD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end of the "s" in "Reynolds".

William T. Reynolds, OD

President, Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners