



Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners News | – FALL 2026

Greetings from Frankfort

This is an inaugural edition to establish a regular line of communication that will be sent quarterly to all active licensees.

Regulatory Corner

The Board has promulgated four regulations in the past year to address licensing examination requirements. Below is a list of the regulations with a brief description, a link to the full text and the status.

[201 KAR 5:021E](#) - Sets requirements for licensees affected by waivers to renew 2027 license (OEBC accepted as an alternative to NBEO Part I from 7/30/25-4/15/26; ABO accepted as an alternative to NBEO Part III from 2/5/26-7/17/26); lasers restricted until all requirements fulfilled. CURRENTLY IN FORCE.

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[201 KAR 5:010E](#) - Sets requirements for new licensees to obtain a license. (NBEO Parts I, II, and III and TMOD; ISE required after 1/1/27); clarified due date for application and documents. CURRENTLY IN FORCE.

[201 KAR 5:010](#) - Sets requirements for new licensees to obtain a license. (NBEO Parts I, II, and III and TMOD; ISE required after 1/1/27); clarified due date for application and documents. On the 10/13/26 agenda of the Administrative Regulations Review Subcommittee.

During the September 2026 meeting, the Board adopted the recommendations of the Patient Safety in Expanded Therapeutic Procedures Workgroup that will require changes to the [existing regulation](#) on expanded therapeutic procedures.

The Board will begin the process of updating regulations, office procedures and forms in the coming months. Here is a [link](#) to the committee's full report.

Contaminated Contact Lenses

In a meeting with Federal and State regulatory and law enforcement agencies, the Food and Drug Administration representative reported on contaminated contact lens cases in and around Kentucky that are under investigation.

With the Halloween season approaching, we have been asked to be a reporting source for any occurrences discovered. Please email details to christi.lemay@ky.gov that will be passed along to the appropriate authorities for investigation.

Updated KASPER Sign Available

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has asked us to assist in the distribution of a refreshed copy of the We Use KASPER sign.

You can download and print an electronic copy of the sign [here](#). The only change is an updated logo.

Safe Prescribing Practices Regarding Gabapentin

Kentucky optometry laws require OD's to prescribe medications safely. Recent literature shows a national increase in Gabapentin prescriptions and Kentucky is experiencing this trend as well. Key findings include:

- Gabapentin has been found in about 250 fatal drug overdoses in Kentucky.
- It is the 9th most frequently identified substance in toxicology reports.
- In Kentucky, prescription use has increased to 16% of all controlled substance prescriptions dispensed; the highest rates were among adults 55-64 years old.
- Among rural Appalachian people who use drugs, about 2/3 of the Gabapentin use came from unregulated sources.
- Nationally, Gabapentin was associated with up to 90% of opioid drug overdose deaths.

Given these findings, all providers should take a proactive role in addressing this issue. The Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners and the Kentucky Controlled Substances Prescribing Council recommend that prescribers carefully assess the risks and benefits before prescribing Gabapentin for off-label use.

Important reminder: Kentucky classifies gabapentin as a Schedule IV controlled substance. Kentucky [statute](#) limits optometrists authority to prescribe a Schedule II hydrocodone combination product as defined in KRS 218A.010 and a Schedule III, IV, or V controlled substance to prescriptions for a quantity sufficient to provide treatment for up to seventy-two (72) hours. No refills of prescriptions for controlled substances are allowed.



New CE Upload Portal

In an effort to streamline filing continuing education credits for license renewal, a new portal has been created and posted on our [website](#). Simply log in with your license number (four digits only) along with the last four digits of your social security number and enter your attendance information.

A screenshot of the form is included below with a brief explanation of how to record your hours.

Credits can be uploaded from certificates of attendance or from an OE Tracker. Here are a few tips for recording from an OE Tracker. You can combine course types and record multiple credits in one post. As an example, if you attended the entire Midwest Society meeting in August 2026 that is sponsored by The Ohio State University, your post might look like the following:

- CE Sponsor:** The Ohio State University
- CE Hours:** 5
- Dates Course Taken From:** 08/12/2026
- Dates Course Taken To:** 08/13/2026
- Course Type:** Expanded therapeutic procedures (ETP)*



Click **Choose File** in the Supporting Document box and attach a copy of your OE Tracker. (NOTE: You will only need to attach this document one time when recording multiple credits from the same document.)

Click **Add another CE Instance** to add the other types of course hours. All information would be the same except the number of hours would be 7 TPA hours and 4 General hours.

Once all hours from the meeting have been recorded, click the blue **Submit** button in the lower left corner of the form.

An important note regarding the CE Sponsor: Please ensure that a board approved sponsor is listed. Kentucky [regulation](#) states that an approved sponsor is a recognized not for profit state, regional (multi state), national optometric association or an accredited school of optometry or an accredited school of medicine. Staff may request a copy of the certificate of attendance listing the approved sponsor if there is a question.

***Course Type:** The Board categorizes the following course letters located at the end of the ID (i.e. COPE course ID# 123456-LP; AOA123-LP):

LP, SP or IS = ETP course (GL sometimes qualifies as ETP if specific laser courses are covered in the presentation)

TD, NO, SD, PH, AS, GL, OP, PD, PO, PS, RS = TPA course

FV, LV, PB, GO, CL – General course

PM, EJ – Practice Management course

Synchronous Virtual and Asynchronous courses are coded as Internet courses and the maximum number of hours allowed is five (5) annually.

Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners CE Submission

License Number *	Last Four Digits of Social Security Number *	
	DT	
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
CE Sponsor *		
CE Hours (no fraction hours; round down to whole numbers) *		
Date CE's Received		
10/1/2026		
Date Course Taken From *		
Date Course Taken To *		
Course Type *		
Upload Supporting Document(s)		
Supporting Document		
Choose File No file chosen		
+ Upload a Supporting Document		
+ Add another CE Instance		
Submit		



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