



KENTUCKY BOARD OF OPTOMETRIC EXAMINERS

Andy Beshear
Governor

2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite A240
Lexington, Kentucky 40504-3333
Phone: (859) 246-2744
Fax (859) 246-2746
<http://optometry.ky.gov>

Jonathan Shrewsbury, OD, President
Lee Peplinski, OD, Vice President
Freddie Mayes, OD, Secretary/Treasurer
William Reynolds, OD
Harold Corder

Carson Kerr
Executive Director

Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners **ADVISORY OPINION 2021-001** June 25, 2021

RE: Guidance for Licensed Kentucky Optometrists in Dispensing
Pharmaceutical Agents

It is the responsibility of the optometrist to be informed of all applicable requirements, which presently exist and as they may exist in the future, and to comply with all requirements while dispensing medicine as part of the practice of optometry.

An optometrist who intends to dispense medication should notify the Kentucky Optometric Board of Examiners on an annual basis.

An optometrist may only dispense the pharmaceutical agents that he/she is authorized to prescribe pursuant to KRS 320.240(12)-(14), with the exception of control substances. An optometrist cannot dispense controlled substances under any circumstance.

All medication dispensed to a patient must be for a legitimate medical purpose and in the course of professional practice.

- Prior to dispensing medication, there should be an established doctor-patient relationship.
- The dispensing of all medication should be pursuant to the practice of optometry in Kentucky, defined in KRS 320.210(2).
- Dispensed medication should be appropriate in terms of the amount and duration, consistent with generally accepted standards of good optometric practice.

An optometrist must be on the premises when a pharmaceutical agent is dispensed to a patient and an optometrist must be actively involved in the dispensing process.

- Prior to dispensing medication to a patient, an optometrist should review the prescription for accuracy and validity.

- Office personnel may provide technical or administrative assistance under the direction of an optometrist.

When a pharmaceutical agent is dispensed by an optometrist, an optometrist must:

- Inform the patient on the appropriate use of the pharmaceutical agent; and
- Document in the patient's record the name, strength, quantity and appropriate use of the pharmaceutical agent provided to the patient.

Prior to dispensing medication, an optometrist should:

- Be aware of the indications, cautions, contraindications and side effects of the medication;
- Ask patients about any drug-induced adverse incidents and known drug allergies; and
- Tell patients what to do in the case of an adverse incident.

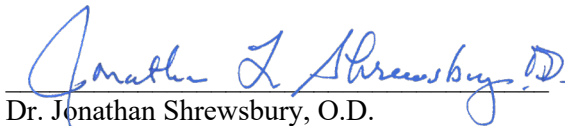
An optometrist shall maintain a record of all pharmaceutical agents purchased for dispensing in the course of professional practice.

- The system may be either manual or electronic; and
- The system must be readily retrievable and capable of inspection at any time.

All pharmaceutical agents must be purchased, possessed, labeled and packaged in accordance with the Kentucky Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and applicable federal law.

- An optometrist should store all diagnostic and therapeutic drugs according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- All pharmaceutical agents should be stored in an established and secure location on the premises and not at a front desk office.
- An optometrist is not authorized to compound medication and may only dispense pre-packaged medication in its original container.

Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners



Dr. Jonathan Shrewsbury, O.D.

President, Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners