

## NOVEMBER 2001 NEWSLETTER

**UPDATED INFORMATION!!!!!! UPDATED INFORMATION!!!!!!**

### **New Zip Code:**

**Effective January 1, 2002 the Boards zip code will be 43215-6108**

### **Laws & Rules**

Enclosed with the November 2001 Newsletter is a copy of Administrative Rule 4725-5-18 DELEGATION OF DUTIES TO ANCILLARY PERSONNEL. (See link for "Rules".) This rule became effective on September 1, 2001. This rule was adopted as a requirement of Substitute House Bill 585. This bill required Health Care Boards to establish rules outlining tasks that office assistants can and can not perform. Basically this rule contains tasks that your office assistants have always been able to do and should not change your past operations to any extent. Many of you work in commercial establishments where Opticians and Optician Apprentices perform tasks for you. This rule does not in any way permit you to assign tasks to these licensees that would be a violation of the Optical Dispensers Board's Laws and Rules, e.g. giving a non-contact lens licensed Optician or Apprentice an assignment to dispense contact lenses. If you have questions after reading this rule, please contact the Board office for instructions.

### **Patient Records**

Administrative Rule 4725-5-11 requires optometrists to maintain patient records for a minimum of seven years. This rule also required optometrists to release records to the patients upon a proper request. We have had two very difficult cases this year when two major optical chains went into bankruptcy. This resulted in patients inundating the Board office wanting their records and prescriptions and they were unable to locate their optometrist. Many of the callers did not know the name of the optometrist they were looking for. This problem was compounded by the fact that many of the optometrists who worked at the closed locations did not carry that location as their primary practice address with the Board nor did they notify the Board of the closings. This made it very difficult for us to locate several optometrists to help patients retrieve records and prescriptions. If you are working at an office that closes or changes locations, it is your responsibility to notify the patients of the location of their records. We urge all optometrists to contact the Board office immediately in cases such as this so we can provide proper information to patients that are seeking records. Remember it is your responsibility to provide patients with their records upon request and to keep the Board notified of your current practice location.

It has come to the attention of the Board that the LasikPlus Vision Center in Cincinnati has sent mailings to Ohio optometrists offering rewards to doctors who refer patients to them for laser surgery. We are reminding you that the acceptance of cash or other items of value for the referral of patients is illegal in Ohio. Ohio Revised Code Administrative Rule 4725-5-06 Splitting of Fees states that "engaging in the

division of fees for the referral of patients, or receiving of any article of value in return for a specific referral of a patient to utilize a particular service or business is prohibited."

REMINDER: Please send your continuing education proof of hours to the Board as soon as you have accumulated all of your hours. Please do not wait until the end of September to submit them as there are often various problems with the C.E. Late submission does not allow the optometrist to make corrections prior to the deadline date(s) and therefore the \$75.00 penalty fee will have to be assessed.

### **Ohio Optometry Board Members for 2002**

Ronald Detwiler, O.D., East Liverpool, President

Beth Workman, O.D., Lorain, Secretary

Susan Quinn, O.D., Athens

Rhonda Riles, O.D., Mansfield

Lawrence Barger, O.D., Akron

Mr. Mel Dettra, Akron, Public Member

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