



Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners

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November 18, 2020

Dr. Nicole Rush
President, Oregon Optometric Association
4404 SE King Road
Milwaukie, OR. 97222

Re: La. Optometric Laser Procedures

Dear Dr. Rush,

In response to your request, I can report that Louisiana Act 398 of the 2014 Louisiana legislature expanded the scope of practice of Optometry allowing Doctors of Optometry who qualified, with additional training, to perform advanced ophthalmic surgery procedures, including laser procedures.

In promulgating the rules to administer the act, the Louisiana State Board of Optometry Examiners (LSBOE) included a provision that all Doctors of Optometry who perform laser procedures were required, as a provision of renewal of their license to practice Optometry, to keep a log of the number of laser procedures performed, and any adverse outcomes noted, and report that to the Board.

Of the 489 Doctors of Optometry practicing in Louisiana, 289 have become certified to perform the procedures to date.

The data from the years 2015-2019 show that Louisiana Doctors of Optometry have performed 11,545 laser procedures with zero negative outcomes reported.

In addition, there have been no complaints to the Board regarding Doctors of Optometry performing these procedures from patients or other doctors, and the Board is not aware of any malpractice suits filed regarding this.

The LSBOE participates with the National Practitioner Data Bank/Health Care Integrity and Protection Data Bank (NPDB/HIPDB) in sharing data regarding Doctors of Optometry and any disciplinary actions committed or reported. The LSBOE has received no communication from the NPDB/HIPDB regarding any malpractice suits, licensure suspension/revocations or other adverse actions regarding Louisiana Doctors of Optometry performing these advanced ophthalmic surgical procedures including laser procedures.

It is clear to the Board that the law has been of great benefit to the citizens of Louisiana, allowing greater access to these procedures, especially in the rural areas of the state.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Sandefur".
Dr. James D. Sandefur

Secretary

La. State Board of Optometry Examiners

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