



# Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure Newsletter

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Fall 2024

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## NEW LAW STARTS JANUARY 1, 2025: Vision Screenings Required for Kentucky Driver's License Renewals

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) has contacted the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure to inform licensees of a new law for drivers throughout the state. This law introduces a new requirement for driver's license renewals in the Commonwealth. Starting January 1, 2025, all Kentuckians must undergo a vision screening to renew their driver's license. This measure, enacted by the 2021 General Assembly through House Bill 439, will enhance highway safety by ensuring drivers maintain required vision standards when behind the wheel and was endorsed by multiple associations representing vision specialists.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet operated Driver Licensing Regional Offices are where all driver's licenses are renewed. We want to ensure you are aware of some key details surrounding the new vision screening process. Here are some key details:

- Implementation Date: January 1, 2025
- Vision Screening Options:
  - Option 1: Vision screenings can be completed for free at any KYTC Driver Licensing Regional Office during a renewal visit.
  - Option 2: Vision screenings may be performed by a vision specialist or a KYTC-credentialed osteopath, physician, or advanced practice registered nurse. An official Driver Vision Testing Certification form (TC 94-202) will be available for medical professionals to complete and give to patients to submit to KYTC starting in 2025.

The Driver Vision Testing Certification (TC 94-202) form is currently in its final stages and will be shared in advance of the new law taking effect. A final version of the form will be sent this fall to medical professionals, but drivers will not be able to submit their form to KYTC until the new law takes effect on January 1, 2025.

**How to get KYTC Screening Credentials:** Physicians must complete a Medical Specialist Credentialing Certification (TC 94-203) to perform vision screenings for KYTC. A final version will be sent this fall for medical professionals to apply for certification prior to January 1, 2025. The credentialing application form specifies the acceptable equipment needed to perform vision screenings.

**Failed Screenings:** Drivers who do not pass a screening at a Driver Licensing Regional Office will be instructed to see a vision specialist for corrective measures before continuing with renewing their license renewal. If a patient fails a vision screening in your office, they will also need to be referred to a vision specialist for corrective measures.

**Corrective Eyewear:** Applicants may perform the screening wearing corrective eyewear, but that must be noted on the form if completed by a medical professional. The patient's license will stipulate that lenses must be worn when operating a vehicle.

**Online Renewal:** Kentuckians may still renew their driver's license online or by mail. The online renewal portal will give users the option to upload a screening form signed by an authorized specialist or provider.

In the coming weeks, KYTC will provide additional information and a virtual communications kit containing promotional materials for display and use in your offices. We will send the state-approved forms to you this fall. Information for the general public about the new vision screening requirement will be posted on [drive.ky.gov](http://drive.ky.gov) once we launch our awareness campaign in September.

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Board Orders can be viewed under the Physician Profile/Verification of License link on the Board's website: [www.kbml.ky.gov](http://www.kbml.ky.gov)

**Board Action Report (actions taken since 07/01/2024)**

**Joseph R. Allen, M.D., Bowling Green, KY License #30657**

Order Terminating Agreed Order issued 08/19/2024

**Peter B. Hardin, M.D., Campbellsville, KY License #42374**

Agreed Order entered into 08/15/2024

**Nancy Hendrix, M.D., Lexington, KY License #48513**

Order Terminating Amended Agreed Order issued 08/16/2024

**Amy S. Henry, D.O., Santa Claus, IN License #03103**

Amended Agreed Order entered into 08/28/2024

**Katherine S. Herold, M.D., Crestwood, KY License #45460**

Order Terminating Agreed Order issued 08/21/2024

**Michael G. Hughes, M.D., Louisville, KY License #44016**

Agreed Order entered into 08/06/2024

**Thomas G. Hughes, M.D., Louisville, KY License #34678**

Agreed Order of Retirement entered into 08/15/2024

**Michael B Humble, M.D., Russellville, KY License #42900**

Order Terminating Agreed Order issued 08/22/2024

**David W. Johnson, M.D., Evansville, IN License #29121**

Order Terminating Agreed Order issued 08/05/2024

**Anand P. Lalaji, M.D., Atlanta, GA License #41552**

Order of Revocation issued 7/22/202, effective 8/21/2024

**William R. Martin, M.D., Owensboro, KY License #34442**

Agreed Order entered into 08/05/2024

**William R. Martin, M.D., Owensboro, KY License #34442**

Amended Agreed Order entered into 08/05/2024

**Amr Mohamed, M.D., Lexington, KY License #45373**

Agreed Order of Surrender entered into 7/30/2024

**Todd M. Raleigh, M.D. Bellingham, WA License #C0679**

Agreed Order issued 9/25/2024

**J. Russell Ross, M.D. Owensboro, KY License #14833**

Agreed Order of Retirement entered into 9/19/2024

**Michael R. Seawell, M.D., McAllen, TX License #50470**

Order Terminating Agreed Order issued 7/19/2024

**Jason Stamper, D.O. Pikeville, KY License #02798**

Agreed Order of Surrender entered into 9/19/2024

**Courtneye A. Walker, M.D., Praire Village, KS License #56168**

Order Terminating Agreed Order issued 7/03/2024

Restrictions have also been placed on the following physicians' licenses pending resolution of charges brought against them.

**Lawrence H. Peters, M.D., Louisville, KY License #31716**

Amended Complaint and Emergency Order of Restriction issued 9/30/2024

**Renewal of Physician Licenses for 2025**

In late December, physicians holding an active license will receive a notice by mail with instructions to renew his or her license. Physicians holding a traditional license will be able to renew their license online at [www.kbml.ky.gov](http://www.kbml.ky.gov). To complete the renewal, physicians will be required to verify and update their unique licensure information. The fee to renew online will be \$150.00. Physicians who renew by paper will be assessed an additional \$10.00 fee.

Please note that physicians holding a compact license will be required to renew his or her license on the IMLCC site. Specific instructions for this process will be sent to compact licensed physician in late December. The link to renew a license on the Board's website will not be available until the first week of January 2025.

As a reminder, the Board no longer mails wallet cards upon completion of renewal. A license verification can be obtained online at no charge at [www.kbml.ky.gov](http://www.kbml.ky.gov).

## **NEW LAW STARTS JANUARY 1, 2025: Vision Screenings Required for Kentucky Driver's License Renewals (Continued from page 1)**

patients to learn if they are due to renew in an effort to streamline your operational process. For further questions about this new initiative, contact Tina Ferguson at KYTC's Division of Driver Licensing ([tina.ferguson@ky.gov](mailto:tina.ferguson@ky.gov)). For more information please visit: <https://drive.ky.gov/Drivers/Pages/Vision-Screening.aspx>

### **Board Accepting Applications to Become a Medical Cannabis Practitioner**

A medical cannabis practitioner, as defined by in [KRS 218B.010](#), "means a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse who is authorized to prescribe controlled substances under [KRS 314.042](#), who is authorized by his or her state licensing board to provide written certifications pursuant to [KRS 218B.050](#)."

Physicians and advanced practice registered nurses ("APRNs") must be authorized through their respective licensing board in order to register with the Program as a medical cannabis practitioner. You can register as a practitioner through the Practitioner Authorization Registration Portal [here](#).

Medical cannabis practitioners may begin entering written certifications into the practitioner registry on December 1, 2024. Patients will need their written certification, which is valid for 60 days, before applying for a medical cannabis card with the Program. The Program cannot accept applications for medical cannabis cards until January 1, 2025.

The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure ("KBML") has promulgated our regulation regarding how physicians may become authorized to write written certifications for the use of medical cannabis. You can read their regulation [here](#). The Board has opened their application for physicians to become authorized. You can find the application, along with more information, [here](#).

Please be advised that the Office of Kentucky Medical Cannabis (OMC) oversees Kentucky's medical cannabis program and it has filed 5 regulations regarding patients and caregivers, including the written certification form that medical cannabis practitioners will use. You can find all of the patient and caregiver regulations [here](#). For more information regarding patients and caregivers, please view our [Patient and Caregiver](#) webpage.

Once medical cannabis practitioners are authorized and registered, the Program will provide a list of registered medical cannabis practitioners on this website.

Here are quick links to reference materials from the OMC:

- [Authorized Practitioner Registration Guide](#)
- [Authorizations - Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [Written Certifications - Quick Reference Guide](#)

**Please note the OMC is planning to hold another webinar for physicians interested in becoming Medical Cannabis Practitioners on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 1pm ET. See additional details below and [here](#).**

#### **Upcoming Webinar: How Licensed Kentucky Physicians Become Authorized Medical Cannabis Practitioners**

Tuesday, December 3rd | 12pm-1pm ET | Register [here](#).

### **Warning – Scammers are Still Attempting to Impersonate Board and Government Officials**

Please be aware the Board is still receiving reports of a widespread fraud scheme in which telephone scammers are impersonating Board representatives in an attempt to extort money or steal personal information. Over the past year, the Board has even noted the scammers are employing more sophisticated tactics and have spoofed the Board main phone number in attempt to convince their target that the call is legitimate and occasionally will send documents on fake KBML letterhead.

Often, they will utilize an urgent and aggressive tone, refusing to speak or leave a message with anyone other than the physician and threaten some kind of Board action or action against the physician's DEA unless thousands of dollars are wire transferred or sent via untraceable gift card numbers or bitcoin. There have even been reports that these scammers are informing physicians that involving their attorneys will only make things worse, which certainly should raise a red flag. With these reports in mind, the Board would like to remind you that our office does not operate in this manner and any correspondence from the Board would appear on formal Board letterhead or from an email address ending with [ky.gov](mailto:ky.gov). For instance, our general email is [kbml@ky.gov](mailto:kbml@ky.gov).

It is important to note that physicians throughout the state have received these phone calls. While the appropriate authorities have been made aware of these fraudulent attempts, the Board encourages all its licensees to be on alert and are encouraged to contact our office at **(502) 429-7150** in the event you want to verify official board communications.

## Board Opinion Regarding Practice Drift

LEGAL AUTHORITY - Pursuant to [KRS 311.602](#), the following Board opinion is issued to assist Board licensees in determining what actions would constitute unacceptable conduct under the provisions of [KRS 311.595](#) and/or [KRS 311.597](#). The Board has decided to publish this opinion because it addresses issues of significant public and medical interest.

DEFINITION - As used in this opinion, "practice drift" means a physician's shift away from the scope of the specialty in which he/she formally trained (in traditional medical education and training pathways) into the scope of another specialty.

OPINION - A license to practice medicine or osteopathy in the Commonwealth of Kentucky provides the licensee the privilege of practicing the full scope of medicine or osteopathy. This privilege comes with substantial responsibility and commensurate accountability. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the licensee, who shifts from their primary and formally trained area of practice expertise to another, to ensure that they are able to meet and conform to all acceptable and prevailing standards of any practice area/specialty in which they engage. Relevant to this responsibility, the Board may discipline a license for any departure from, or failure to conform to, the standards of acceptable and prevailing medical practice within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. See [KRS 311.595\(9\)](#) and [KRS 311.597\(4\)](#).

When investigating cases, the Board holds the licensee accountable to the acceptable and prevailing medical practices of the specialty in which the licensee engaged as impetus for a grievance. For instance, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon offering hormone therapy will be held to the acceptable and prevailing medical practices within the specialty of endocrinology; and a board-certified emergency medicine physician offering botox, lasers and cosmetic procedures will be held to the acceptable and prevailing medical practices within the specialty of aesthetic dermatology or plastic and reconstructive surgery.

The Board cautions licensees who engage in practice drift. Licensees should consider the quality of training programs offered outside of traditional education and training pathways and should carefully consider whether the education and/or training offered would be comparable to the rigor and quality of a formal education, residency or fellowship training, or board certification within a practice specialty. The Board expects licensees to conform to the acceptable and prevailing medical practices associated with specialists in those fields. Published as Board Opinion on December 20, 2023.

## Joint Statement Of The Kentucky Boards of Medical Licensure, Nursing and Pharmacy Regarding Retail IV Therapy

The retail IV therapy business model is rapidly expanding across the country. Many clinics engaging in this therapy are adopting business and/or practice models without realizing IV therapy constitutes the practice of medicine, nursing and/or pharmacy. Many of these establishments do not have appropriately licensed and qualified staff to perform the necessary tasks and satisfy minimum statutory and regulatory requirements of practice. The Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, Kentucky Board of Nursing, and Kentucky Board of Pharmacy acknowledge and appreciate the work of their colleagues at the South Carolina Boards of Medical Examiners, Pharmacy and Nursing, the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners, and the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure for rendering thoughtful and well-reasoned guidance on the issues presented herein.

Licensees must protect themselves and the public by ensuring that their participation in any business venture constituting the practice of medicine, nursing, or pharmacy complies with legal requirements and satisfies all applicable professional standards. Public health and safety require no less.

Despite the proliferation of IV hydration clinics around the state, the diagnosis of a condition that results in the ordering of IV-delivered drugs, amino acids, or vitamins is unambiguously the practice of medicine. Likewise, the storage and administration of these medications constitutes both the practice of pharmacy and the practice of nursing. Failure to be licensed by the Boards as required is a violation of Kentucky law and can be punished. Meanwhile, failures by licensees to follow the laws governing their practice(s) could result in disciplinary proceedings and sanctions by their respective boards; by law, sanctions may include monetary fines, probation of a license, suspension of a license, or even revocation of a license, as set forth in each of the practice acts. The Board strongly encourages its licensees to review the guidance of this opinion and consider its application within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. A copy of the opinion is available [here](#).

## Board Election and Welcomes New Member

During the proceedings of the Board's September 19, 2024, meeting, members of Board held its annual election for leadership for the upcoming year. As a result, the Board selected William C. Thornbury, M.D., of Glasgow, to serve as Board President. Waqar Saleem, M.D., of Louisville, was elected as Vice President and serves as Chair of the Board's Inquiry/Hearing Panel A. Dale Toney, M.D., of Lexington was elected to serve as Secretary and will serve as the Chair of the Board's Inquiry/Hearing Panel B.

In addition to the election of officers, the Board also welcomed one new member recently appointed by Governor Andy Beshear. William C. Denham, M.D., who practices Family Medicine in Maysville, was appointed to fill the position previously held by Heidi Koenig, M.D., whose term expired. In addition, Governor Beshear also re-appointed Waqar Saleem, M.D., who practices Family Medicine in Louisville, and James M. Foster, Esq., who practices law in Hopkinsville as a consumer member. The Board would like to take this opportunity to express its deepest appreciation to Dr. Koenig for her years of service to the citizens of the Commonwealth, her many contributions to the Federation of State Medical Boards and for her dedication to public safety.

**Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure  
310 Whittington Parkway, Suite 1B  
Louisville, KY 40222**

**Change of Address Notice**

All information provided below is used to update the licensee's profile on the Board's website [www.kbml.ky.gov](http://www.kbml.ky.gov).

You may also change your address online by clicking [here](#).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Practice Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Practice County: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*The Board does not publish your email address.