

If you're not involved,  
you're letting someone else  
decide your future.



Minnesota's  
  
Optometrists



*Strength through solidarity.*  
American Optometric Association  
*Doctors on the frontline of eye and vision care.*

## Did you know?

*Your scope of practice is not automatic. In fact, your profession is a legislated profession. As the **ONLY** organization in Minnesota that lobby's the Minnesota Legislature and works with insurance carriers on behalf of Optometry we thought it was important to share some key accomplishments over the past year that may significantly affect your bottom line.*

The MOA's Third Party Committee led by Dr. Mark Hennen has worked with our lobbyist firm of attorneys on several issues related to Blue Cross and Blue Shield. BC/BS had been denying reimbursement for procedures that they stated were not within the scope of practice. This refusal of fair and legal reimbursement was successfully challenged in meetings and in communications from the MOA attorneys.

### **The procedures they will cover are as follows:**

- **coverage for optometrists performing ERG code 92275 (ERG)**
- **code for code 83861 (Tear Osmolarity testing)**
- **coverage for the placement of amniotic membrane on the ocular surface without sutures (code 65778) may be billed by optometrists.**

The Third Party Committee has also had many meetings and conversations with UCare about some changes they recently made to their senior Medicare Advantage plan. During these meetings and discussions we learned that they treat all medical care just like Medicare would. However, as an advantage plan, they also offer an additional benefit of an "Annual Preventative Exam". CMS requires this annual preventative exam to be well defined and set apart from what is normally covered by Medicare. Thus, the new coding protocols.

The committee has also been working on the Pediatric Eye Care and Eyewear benefit that is part of the Affordable Care Act essential benefits. We have met with all of the local carriers and found that all plans (except some ERISA plans) are providing an annual eye exam without co-pay or deductible for anyone under 19. The eyewear, however, is subject to meeting their deductible and this renders it essentially a non-benefit for most people. We are working with our national legislators and the AOA to get some of this language changed.

There will continue to be both threats and opportunities to practicing Optometry in Minnesota, such as online "eye exams" and prescription kiosks. **We need your membership, your support and your voice to support your practice.**