

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Registration Committee

DATE: December 6, 2021

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Policy Addenda

☒ For Decision

☐ For Information

☐ Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To provide the Board of Directors with considerations for extending the temporary addenda to the Contact Lens Fitting Policy and the Contact Lens Mentor Policy.

Background:

In 2020 the Board of Directors approved temporary addenda to the [Contact Lens Fitting Policy](#) and the [Contact Lens Mentor Policy](#) to address the challenges being posed to students in obtaining the requisite number of eyeglass and contact lens fits as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the temporary addendum to the Contact Lens Fitting Policy, up to 25% of eyeglass fittings may be performed by students on a peer-to-peer basis. The remaining 75% of fits must be performed on actual patients in a dispensary setting.

Under the temporary addendum to the Contact Lens Mentor Policy, eligibility to qualify as a contact lens mentor is extended to include opticianry instructors in academic settings.

For Consideration:

At its meeting on October 18, 2021, the Registration Committee considered continuing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns regarding student fittings identified by educational program coordinators and other stakeholders about student fittings. In light of these considerations, the Committee is recommending to extend the temporary addenda to the Contact Lens Fittings Policy and the Contact Lens Mentor Policy. If approved, these temporary provisions will remain in effect until December 31, 2022, at which time the Committee will re-assess the situation.

Public Interest Considerations:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a number of challenges for current and newly graduated opticianry students. The College has a mandate to ensure that it continues to register qualified and competent

opticians to ensure patient safety, and that it does so in a manner that does not create unnecessary or excessive barriers to registration.

Recommendation/Action Required:

That the Board approve the proposed extension to the addenda to the Contact Lens Fittings Policy and the Contact Lens Mentor Policy as recommended by the Registration Committee.