

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Registration Committee

DATE: October 2, 2023

SUBJECT: 7.1 Reinstatement Policy

Appendix A: Draft Reinstatement Policy

☒ For Decision

☐ For Information

☐ Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To review and approve the proposed amendment to the Reinstatement Policy.

Background:

In 2014, a regulation was passed that no longer permitted opticians whose certificate of registration was suspended to dispense eyeglasses, contact lenses, and subnormal vision devices under the supervision of an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

Upon review of the current Reinstatement Policy, it was noted that it contained an outdated provision as one of the suggested activities for suspended registrants to demonstrate currency of their skill was to dispense under the supervision of an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

For Consideration:

Based on the inaccuracy noted in the current Reinstatement Policy, the Registration Committee considered removing the suggested activity of dispensing under the supervision of an ophthalmologist or optometrist while suspended.

Public Interest Considerations

The Reinstatement Policy sets out steps for opticians wishing to return to active practice and accounts for the fact that skills may decline after a prolonged absence from the profession. The proposed policy amendment protects the public by ensuring that opticians will practise safely and in accordance with the Standards of Practice.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Considerations

No concerns were identified at this time.

Recommendation/Action Required:

The Registration Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed amendment to the Reinstatement Policy, as set out in Appendix A.

REGISTRATION POLICY

Reinstatement

Reinstatement Requirements after 3 years of Suspension

It is a regulatory requirement for reinstatement under Section 12, paragraph (5) of the Registration Regulation (O. Reg. 869/93), that:

“An application for reinstatement made more than three years from the date of suspension shall be referred to the Registration Committee, which shall evaluate the applicant’s qualifications and determine whether the applicant must meet any examination and Quality Assurance Program requirements in order to be reinstated.”

The Registration Committee will evaluate a reinstatement applicant’s knowledge, skill and judgement, to determine whether it is in the public interest for the applicant to resume practice, or whether additional requirements must be met, based on the criteria set out below.

Reinstatement Requirements

The requirements for reinstatement after a suspension of three or more years will be individualized for each applicant depending on their specific circumstances. Applicants who provide satisfactory evidence of appropriate knowledge, skill and judgment through opticianry related activities and continuing education will be reinstated.

Competency-based Assessment

In cases where an applicant cannot satisfactorily demonstrate competency, or if the Registration Committee is uncertain about the applicant’s knowledge, skill, and judgment, the Registration Committee may direct the applicant to complete a competency-based assessment.

Examination and Quality Assurance Program Requirements

Following the competency-based assessment, the Registration Committee may direct that the applicant complete exams (e.g. NACOR exams) or quality assurance program activities such as:

1. Continuing education and professional development activities such as courses and/or practicums
2. Jurisprudence and Sexual Abuse Prevention Tools (required by all reinstatement applicants upon the College’s adoption of the tools)

In some circumstances, the Registration Committee may reinstate the applicant’s certificate of registration if the applicant agrees to meet specified quality assurance requirements within a certain period of time following reinstatement. This may include a period of supervision or mentorship where appropriate.

Reinstatement

Date Approved: September 14, 2005

Date Last Revised: September 29, 2014

Reinstatement Criteria

Applications for reinstatement will be assessed by the Registration Committee using the following criteria:

1. Length of time applicant has been out of active opticianry practice: In some situations, the applicant will have been out of active opticianry practice for a longer period of time than the certificate of registration has been suspended.
2. Applicant's skill: The Registration Committee will take into account recent completion of activities that would have allowed the applicant to sustain a certain level of practical skill in both contact lens and eyeglass dispensing. Examples include, but are not limited to, dispensing practice in another jurisdiction, teaching of dispensing, ~~dispensing under supervision of an Ophthalmologist or Optometrist~~, clinical work or medical mission work, or work as a technical consultant.
3. Applicant's knowledge: The Registration Committee will consider the completion of continuing education activities that demonstrate that an applicant has maintained a certain level of theoretical knowledge and understanding of current optical technologies. Examples include, but are not limited to, continuing education obtained in Ontario or other jurisdictions, attendance at accredited or non-accredited opticianry related seminars, presentations and workshops.
4. Any special circumstances.