

We would like to hear from you.

The College's Board of Directors is proposing important changes relating to the practice of refraction by registered opticians. Specifically, the Board is proposing that Standard 8: Refraction and, as a result, the refracting designation be eliminated.

Background:

The Board is continually looking for ways to align the Standards of Practice with changing practice environments.

There are more opticians working in shared practice environments with optometrists and ophthalmologists, for this reason, the Board approved Standard 10: Delegation in 2020.

Standard 10 applies to *all* opticians who refract under the assignment or delegation of an authorized prescriber, without requiring a specific refracting designation. In the meantime, we have Standard 8: Refraction, that is applicable to only 40 opticians in the province.

These 2 standards both address refraction and have the potential to cause confusion among both the public and members of the profession. Standard 8 is restricted to a small group of individuals who were granted refracting designation prior to the government mortarium in 2009. To streamline and simplify where to find guidance on refraction, the College is proposing the elimination of Standard 8.

The College has carried out extensive consultations in 2022 and found almost all 40 of the opticians with the refracting designation are not performing any refractions as per this standard. The elimination of Standard 8 will streamline the Standards of Practice document and eliminate confusion for the majority of opticians and public, without any material impact on these particular opticians.

You can review the Standards of Practice [here](#).

How Does this affect you?

While the College will no longer recognize refracting designations, opticians who currently hold the designation will still be able to refract under the guidance of Standard 10, under the delegation or assignment of an authorized prescriber.

With the revocation of Standard 8, there will be no further requirement for opticians who had refracting designation to complete additional continuing education hours or submit quarterly Patient Acknowledgement Forms for each refraction.

Also, all opticians with the required knowledge, skill, and judgement will continue to be allowed to refract under delegation or assignment of an authorized prescriber.

It is important to remember that refracting is not prescribing; opticians cannot make and/or dispense glasses and/or contact lenses from the results of a refraction.

Click [here](#) to provide your comments or feedback by August 18, 2023.