

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Registration Committee

DATE: December 5 and 6, 2022

SUBJECT: 26.0 Addenda to the Contact Lens Fittings Policy and the Contact Lens Mentor Policy

☒ For Decision

☐ For Information

☐ Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To consider an extension of 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 Fittings 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.

The temporary addendum to the Contact Lens Fitting Policy permitted students to perform up to 25% of eyeglass fittings on a peer-to-peer basis. The remaining 75% of fits were to 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 was extended to include opticianry instructors in academic settings.

For Consideration:

At its meeting on November 14, 2022, the Registration Committee considered the concerns identified by educational program coordinators and other stakeholders about student fittings. In recognition of continuing challenges regarding student fittings and the COVID-19 impact remaining a fluid situation, the Registration Committee is recommending extending 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, 2023, at which time the Committee will reassess the situation.

Public Interest Considerations

The COVID-19 pandemic has created several 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.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Considerations

The Registration Committee considered that the proposed extension will ensure that graduating students are able to complete the required fittings within a reasonable timeframe and subsequently register as an optician, which will balance their need to enter the profession against the need for the COO to maintain financial stability by enabling a yearly influx of registrants.

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.