

Summary of the Proposed Revisions to the Standards of Practice

Background

Revisions to the Standards of Practice and Guidelines are being proposed to reflect existing risk of harm data, global trends in opticianry regulation and initial feedback received from stakeholders and Registered Opticians.

Practice guidelines have been added throughout the document. A guideline explains the requirements of a standard and sets out a best practice.

The complete draft standards can be accessed here: <http://www.coptont.org/STAKEHOLDER/index.php>

Summary of Proposed Changes

Standard	Changes Proposed
Standard 1: Competence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A standard referencing professional judgement has been added. • A standard that opticians always act in the patient’s best interest and put the patient’s interest above their own personal or commercial interest has been added.
Standard 2: Professional Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A standard has been introduced regarding ethical behaviour with a link to the Code of Ethics. • The standard regarding opticians’ supervision responsibilities has been updated to include any person to whom they have delegated, and a practice guideline has been introduced to further explain supervision and delegation. • Standards have been introduced to address opticians’ obligations with respect to professional boundaries, sexual abuse prevention and mandatory reporting. • A standard has been introduced regarding an optician’s obligation to report unsafe practice or incompetence of a regulated health professional to the appropriate college. • The standard has been modified to focus on overall continuity of care which might include taking steps to ensure that another health professional can assist the patient in the optician’s absence. • Guidance on what it means to be the “most responsible dispenser” has been added.
Standard 3: Dispensing of Appropriate Optical Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposed guideline around expiry dates and how to deal with recommendations and notes on the prescription has been included here. • A practice guideline regarding prescription duplication has been added.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for opticians who may wish to offer more services via telepractice, including, where appropriate, • The delivery of prescription eyeglasses prior to fitting and adapting has been added. • The practice guideline for dispensing contact lenses was updated to provide additional information on who is an established contact lens patient is and obtaining relevant health information before dispensing. • A standard has been developed to outline specific requirements when an optician performs orthokeratology.
Standard 5: Record Keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The list of things that must be included in the patient record has been updated to include a requirement to include the original prescription in the patient health record, recording details in a patient file when services are discontinued or refused, financial records, notation of services provided to an existing patient and third party coverage. • A practice guideline for transferring patient records has been added. • A standard regarding electronic record keeping has been added. • A practice guideline for record keeping of “a-la-carte” services has been added to provide opticians with guidance for when there is the need to create a patient record when providing services to a person who is not an existing patient.
Standard 6: Patient Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The practice guideline, consent to provide health care services has been updated to define informed consent as well as considerations that must be taken when providing “a-la-carte” services.
Standard 7: Telepractice &Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A standard has been introduced for telepractice. • Guidelines for telepractice and the delivery of optical devices has been developed and updated using feedback from the committee and focus group sessions.
Standard 9: Advertising and Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This standard has been developed to ensure any advertising material or social media platform or posts about an optician’s practice conforms with the College’s regulation.