

**Optometrists and Opticians (Practice, Conduct, Ethics and Publicity)
Regulations**

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OPTOMETRISTS AND OPTICIANS ACT (CHAPTER 213A, SECTION 37)

OPTOMETRISTS AND OPTICIANS (PRACTICE, CONDUCT, ETHICS AND PUBLICITY) REGULATIONS

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PART I

PRELIMINARY

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Optometrists and Opticians (Practice, Conduct, Ethics and Publicity) Regulations.

Definitions

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“aftercare” means the follow-up service provided to a patient after the prescription, fitting or supply of an optical appliance for that patient;

“contact lens practice” means acts or activities specified in items 2, 5 and 6 of Part II of the Schedule to the Act, where such acts or activities relate to contact lenses;

“contact lens practitioner” means a registered optometrist or an exempted optician permitted under the Act to carry out contact lens practice;

“exempted optician” means a person referred to in paragraph 2(1) of the Optometrists and Opticians (Exemption from section 25(1)) Order (O 1);

“patient” means a person who consults a registered person;

“publicity” means any form of advertisement and includes any advertisement —

- (a) printed in any medium for the communication of information;
- (b) appearing in, communicated through or retrievable from, any mass medium, electronic or otherwise; or
- (c) contained in any medium for communication produced or for use by a firm.

PART II

PRACTICE, CONDUCT AND ETHICS

General practice, conduct and ethics

3.—(1) A registered person shall maintain high standards of ethical and professional conduct and provide proper and adequate service to his patients in his practice of optometry or opticianry, as the case may be.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1) and subject to the Medical Registration Act (Cap. 174), a registered person —

- (a) shall not carry out any act or activity in relation to eye care except in accordance with such guidelines or directives as the Board may, from time to time, issue; and
- (b) shall comply with such standards of ethical and professional conduct and practice which the Board may, from time to time, determine in the form of guidelines or directives.

(3) In this regulation, “act or activity in relation to eye care” means any act or activity that —

- (a) relates to eye care; and
- (b) is not specified in the Schedule to the Act.

Referral of complex cases

4.—(1) A registered person who is not a registered medical practitioner shall not hold out that he can treat any injury or disease of the eye.

(2) Where it appears to a registered person that his patient is suffering from an injury or a disease of the eye which is beyond his competence to treat, he shall, except in an emergency or where, owing to special circumstances, it is impracticable or inexpedient to do so, refer his patient to another registered person or an ophthalmologist whom he reasonably believes to be competent to treat the injury or disease of the eye, as may be appropriate.

Proper facilities and equipment

5. A registered person shall ensure that his place of practice is properly and adequately equipped for his practice as an optometrist or optician, as the case may be, and he shall not use any machinery, equipment or other facility which does not comply with the standards determined in the guidelines or directives issued by the Board.

Contact lens practice

6.—(1) Any contact lens practitioner who carries out contact lens practice shall personally carry out, and shall not permit any person who is not a contact lens practitioner or an ophthalmologist to carry out, any of the following functions in relation to his contact lens practice:

- (a) explaining the risks involved in the use of contact lenses;
- (b) counselling on the proper use of contact lenses;
- (c) prescribing and fitting contact lenses; or
- (d) providing aftercare to patients, including monitoring the patients to detect, prevent and manage problems or complications arising from the use of contact lenses prescribed, fitted or supplied in the course of his practice as a contact lens practitioner and dealing with such problems or complications.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a contact lens practitioner who carries out contact lens practice may, with the written consent of his patient, arrange for another contact lens practitioner to carry out some or all of the functions referred to in that paragraph in respect of that patient.

Supply of optical appliances

7. A registered person shall not supply optical appliances which do not comply with the standards determined in the guidelines or directives issued by the Board.