



**College of
Opticians
of Ontario**

CODE OF ETHICS

The ethical foundation of the practice of Opticianry consists of general principles of conduct, which the profession has come to accept as a prerequisite to maintaining the dignity and integrity of the profession. This Code is intended to outline in broad fashion the duties and responsibilities which members of the profession are expected to adhere to in their relationships with the public, with their patients and with their fellow practitioners.

The Optician-patient relationship is therapeutic and based on trust and respect.

TRUST

Patients entrust their vision care to the Optician based on the Member's unique knowledge and professional skills in eye care.

RESPECT

Respect for the dignity and worth of the patient is a fundamental concept of all health care professions. This requires that the Optician always take into account all aspects of individuality of the patient when providing opticianry services.

THE CODE

Ethical Opticians:

1. Will have as their first consideration the well-being of their patients.
2. Maintain professional integrity and conduct all professional activities, programs, and relations honestly and responsibly.
3. Maintain a respectful relationship with members of the public in order to facilitate awareness and understanding of the profession of Opticianry.
4. Will strive to improve the standard of Opticianry services in the community.
5. Will report to the respective College, where they have reason to believe incompetence, misconduct, incapacity, sub-standard and/or unethical behaviour, or sexual abuse of a patient by another Member of any of the regulated health professions.
6. Commit to the highest level of professional care through the maintenance and application of current relevant knowledge and skill.
7. Will practice their profession with all the knowledge and ability of which they are capable.
8. Will uphold the honour and dignity of the profession by standards of integrity and behaviour.
9. Will be responsible in setting a value on their services.
10. Will abide by the laws of the jurisdiction in which they practice.
11. Maintain awareness of the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) and College regulations and programs and comply with same.
12. Will inform the College when a physical or mental disease/condition has affected, or may affect over time, their ability to practice safely or competently.
13. Will not practice under conditions that may adversely affect the quality of their treatment.

14. Will participate in ongoing professional development and integrate relevant learning into their area of practice to improve their standard of care.
15. Will kindly, but firmly, insist upon doing only those things which their professional knowledge dictates to be in the best interest of their patients' welfare.
16. Will ensure that their conduct in the practice of their profession is above reproach and that they will not take physical or emotional advantage of their patients.
17. Communicate relevant information clearly to the patient through verbal, non-verbal and/or written means while also establishing a feedback process to ensure mutual understanding.
18. Act at all times with respect for other health care professionals and unregulated personnel.
19. Will recognize their limitations and, when indicated, recommend to patients that additional opinions and services be obtained.
20. Keep confidential all information received in the course of the professional relationship except when reporting is required by law (i.e. RHPA, etc.) or when the sharing of pertinent information is appropriate for collaboration with other health care providers involved in the care of the patient.

OBLIGATION

The obligation to maintain standards of professional competence and ethics always lies with the Members. Therefore, responsibility for ensuring that the Members do not incur or participate in any act of abuse lies solely with the Members. Any act of abuse by the Members, whether it is sexual, physical, verbal or emotional is a betrayal of the Optician-patient relationship.