



COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF ONTARIO POLICY

SUPERVISION OF STUDENT AND INTERN OPTICIANS

The College of Opticians of Ontario is committed to supporting Registered Opticians who provide on-site education to Opticianry Students and Interns. The College strongly encourages Registered Opticians to participate in the preparation of Students and Interns studying Opticianry. The education and training of Opticians requires learning in both the classroom and in the practice setting. While the classroom training is provided within approved Opticianry education programs, Students and Interns receive clinical training from Registered Opticians.

Student and Intern Opticians are permitted to perform all aspects of the controlled act of dispensing eyewear under the supervision of a Registered Optician. The tasks in dispensing eyewear are not delegated to Students or Interns. Students and Interns must comply with all the rules and regulations governing the profession.

Registered Opticians who supervise Students and Interns are responsible for all patient services provided by the Student or Intern and are expected to adhere to the supervision requirements set out in this position statement.

Guiding Principles

- 1) When supervising a Student/Intern, the supervising Optician must be registered with the College of Opticians of Ontario, in good standing without terms, conditions and limitations on his/her certificate of registration. The supervising Optician must be comfortable assessing their own skills and abilities as well as evaluating the skills and abilities of others. The supervising Optician should agree to act as a clinical educator only in areas of clinical practice where he or she is competent.
- 2) An individual must be registered and in good standing with the College of Opticians of Ontario as a Student Optician or Intern Optician to perform the controlled act of dispensing under the supervision of a Registered Optician; unregistered individuals are subject to the delegation policies of the College of Opticians of Ontario.
- 3) The supervising Optician accepts and maintains primary responsibility for the Opticianry Student/Intern whom he or she supervises.
- 4) The supervising Optician accepts responsibility for judging the knowledge, skills and abilities of the Students/Interns under his or her supervision prior to assigning patient care responsibilities.
- 5) The supervising Optician and the Student/Intern should meet to jointly formulate clear, objective and measurable goals to be used in the evaluation process, prior to the Student/Intern providing clinical service. The goals should be measured using a schedule to be determined jointly by the supervisor and the Student/Intern.

Optician Responsibilities

Opticians who supervise Students or Interns function as clinical educators. The supervising Optician shall:

- 1) Be familiar with Students' and Interns' learning objectives and with their curriculum; including course content, program philosophy and expectations;
- 2) Orient the Student/Intern to the facility (including equipment, protocols and documentation requirements) and to the specific condition, needs and/or goals of individual patients;
- 3) Ensure that duties assigned are appropriate to the Student/Intern's level of education, ability, experience, comfort level and learning style, as well as the complexity of the environment/practice setting;
- 4) Provide feedback to the Student/Intern regarding performance on a consistent, timely basis, based on the criteria established by the respective Opticianry Educational program;
- 5) Have the right to refuse to supervise a Student/Intern when the supervising Optician, in the best interests of the public, deems such action to be appropriate;

Determining the Amount of Supervision Required

- 1) The Registered Optician must always directly supervise a Student/Intern's patient contact. Direct supervision means that a member must be **on-site**, able to intervene, and available to provide in-view observation, formal feedback and guidance while a Student/Intern performs a controlled act.
- 2) The amount of supervision a Student/Intern will need will depend on the type of task assigned and the overall competence of the Student/Intern.

Identification

To avoid confusion or misrepresentation, Registered Opticians, Students and Interns must wear their identification badge in compliance with the Registration Regulation.

Complaints

Student and Intern Opticians are members of the College of Opticians of Ontario; accordingly, complaints regarding the actions or conduct of Student and Intern Opticians will be handled in compliance with the Complaints requirements of the *Regulated Health Professions Act* and the policies of the College of Opticians of Ontario. Dependant upon the circumstances, complaints regarding the actions or conduct of Students/Interns could result in an investigation of the supervising Optician.



Controlled Acts

The *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* permits Students and Interns under the direction and supervision of a member to perform the controlled act of “dispensing for vision or eye problems, eyeglasses, contact lenses or subnormal vision devices” – authorized to Opticians under the *Opticianry Act, 1991*. Before permitting a Student/Intern to perform a controlled act, however, the supervising Optician must ensure that he or she has assessed the potential harm associated with the procedure and has determined that the Student/Intern has the knowledge, skills and judgment to perform the procedure safely and effectively.

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