

APPENDIX: T



OPTICAL BULLETIN

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF ONTARIO

COUNCIL COMPLIES WITH MINISTER'S REQUESTS: REFRACTOMETRY IS NOT PART OF THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF OPTICIANRY; OPTICIANS ARE DIRECTED TO CEASE PERFORMING REFRACTOMETRY IMMEDIATELY

As announced in the previous bulletin, the Council held a Special Meeting on March 9, 2001, to review and take action on the letter from the Honourable Elizabeth Witmer, the-then Minister of Health and Long-term Care. There were approximately 45 persons present in the public gallery, of which 11 made presentations to Council. In her letter, dated February 7, 2001, which was also reprinted in the previous bulletin and read out at the meeting, Ms. Witmer stated that the advice she received from the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) was that refractometry is not part of the scope of practice of Opticianry, but that Colleges have the authority to govern activities that their members do which are not within the scope of practice, provided that they are related to the scope of practice. However, the Minister determined that, in the interests of the public safety measures set out in the RHPA, it was her decision to request the College to direct Opticians to cease performing refractometry immediately, until standards of practice are developed and put into place, in collaboration with the College of Optometrists and the College of Physicians & Surgeons. The Minister also requested that the College take steps to enforce this directive. The Council first heard a number of excellent presentations, and then listened to advice from the College's legal counsel, that the College must comply with all the

Minister's requests, under the provisions of the RHPA. The Council discussed, debated, and eventually passed a number of motions, which were as follows:

1) MOTION REGARDING THE PERFORMANCE OF REFRACTOMETRY:

Ms. Marjorie Carroll moved that the College of Opticians of Ontario inform its members that refractometry is not part of the scope of practice of Opticianry, that Opticians are prohibited from practising refractometry unless a patient-prescriber professional relationship exists, and that [the College] proceed to develop standards of practice for the performance of refractometry in the public interest. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathi Mietkiewicz.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION (based on advice):

Ms. Cathi Mietkiewicz moved that the motion be amended as follows: that the words "unless a patient-prescriber professional relationship exists" be replaced with "until standards of practice are established". This amendment was seconded by Mr. John Lescard.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

In favour: Marjorie Carroll, Cathi Mietkiewicz, Brian Childs, Norm Eggett, Jane Rowe, Rick Hayward Sam Thomas, Brian Kavanagh, John Lescard and Jean Warbucks.

Abstention: Maria Peart. The motion, to amend the original motion, carried.

VOTE ON THE AMENDED MOTION:

All voted in favour and the amended motion carried unanimously.

2) MOTION ON ADOPTION OF A STANDARD OF PRACTICE:

Mr. Norm Eggett moved that the College of Opticians of Ontario adopt a standard of practice as follows:

- Opticians shall not perform refractometry until effective and enforceable evidence-based standards of practice for the performance of refractometry by Opticians have been developed and adopted.
- Opticians shall not use the results of a refractometry test to alter a prescription.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Cathi Mietkiewicz.

VOTE: All voted in favour and the motion carried unanimously.

Reminder to all Opticians: to breach a Standard of Practice may be considered professional misconduct under the Acts and Regulations.

3) MOTION ON DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR REFRACTOMETRY FOR OPTICIANS

Mr. John Lescard moved that [the Council] assign the task, of putting together standards of practice concerning refractometry, to the Quality Assurance Committee. This motion was seconded by Mr. Norm Eggett.

VOTE: All voted in favour and the motion carried unanimously.