

Nova Scotia College of Dispensing Opticians Code of Ethics

Introduction

This Code of Ethics for Opticians provides a guide to the ethical behaviour expected of Opticians in Nova Scotia.

The Code of Ethics is a public document which is intended to supplement and complement the Dispensing Opticians Act and Regulations made thereunder. By elaborating on the profession's ethical principles, the Code of Ethics promotes accountability by Opticians and assists in gaining the public's trust in the profession.

The interpretation and application of this code in specific circumstances requires individual judgement and discretion.

Duties of the Public

- 1.1 Opticians should support measures which are likely to improve the quality and availability of professional dispensing services available to the public.
- 1.2 Opticians should promote the education of the public and the provision of information to the public respecting the practice of dispensing.

Duties and Obligations towards Clients

A. Provision of safe, Competent and Ethical Care

Opticians shall provide safe, competent and ethical care that allows them to fulfill their ethical and professional obligations to their clients.

- 2.1 Opticians shall carry out their practice with integrity.
- 2.2 Opticians must practice within their own level of competence and scope of practice. When aspects of care are beyond their level of competence, they must seek additional information or assistance.
- 2.3 Opticians shall engage in continuing education in order to maintain and improve their competencies.

- 2.4 Opticians shall refrain from performing acts that are inappropriate for or disproportionate to the needs of the client.
- 2.5 Opticians shall be objective and impartial when imparting information.
- 2.6 Opticians must inform clients as soon as possible of any errors, complications or problems arising while providing professional services.
- 2.7 Opticians must strive to prevent and minimize adverse events for clients.

B. Opticians shall respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence information disclosed to them.

- 2.8 Opticians shall demonstrate regard for the privacy for their clients.
- 2.9 Opticians shall respect the privacy of all confidential information acquired in their Professional relationship with a client and shall not use or disclose such information to others without the client's consent or as otherwise required by law.

C. Opticians respect and promote the autonomy of persons by enabling clients to make Informed choices.

- 2.10 Opticians actively involve clients in discussions relevant to eye care and promote Informed choice by communication relevant information openly, truthfully and sensitively in recognition of the client's needs values and capacity to understand.
- 2.11 Opticians recommend and provide only those services they believe are necessary for the client's health, or as consistent with the client's informed choice.

D. Opticians shall be accountable for their actions.

- 2.12 Opticians practice in conformity with relevant principles, standards, laws and Regulations and accept responsibility for their behaviour and decisions in the professional context.
- 2.13 Opticians take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the client.
- 2.14 Opticians shall promote workplace practices and policies that facilitate professional practice in accordance with the principles, standards, laws and regulations under

which they are accountable.

- 2.15 Opticians shall conduct themselves with honesty and protect their own integrity in all of their professional interactions.
- 2.16 Opticians must display reasonable availability to clients in the practice of their profession.
- 2.17 Opticians must inform clients as early as possible of the costs and nature of the professional services required and of the manner of performing them.
- 2.18 Opticians shall avoid conflicts of interest in their provision of professional services.

Ethical Duties Toward Colleagues

- 2.19 Opticians shall contribute to the development of the profession of Dispensing through the exchange of knowledge and experience with colleagues and candidates for the practice of the profession.
- 2.20 Opticians shall promote co-operation with other colleagues in the best interest of their Clients, the public and their profession.