

Definitions of Regulations, Standards of Practice, Guidelines, & Policies

REGULATORY STANDARDS

Regulatory Standards are found in the legislation of the province of Saskatchewan including the *Optometry Act, 1985*, The Optometric Professional Bylaws, Medical Insurance Act and Health Information Protection Act. These Regulatory Standards are mandatory requirements for the profession and must be followed by Saskatchewan optometrists. Non-compliance of Regulatory Standards could result in an allegation of professional misconduct.

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Standards of Practice are considered the minimum standard of professional behavior and ethical conduct which ensures safe, competent, and ethical professional care to all patients.

Standards of Practice are formal requirements established by the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists which members must comply. The Regulatory Standards supplement legislation and/or ethical standards in relation to defined areas of practice.

Standards of Practice describe what a consensus of prudent practitioners would do in certain circumstances. Standards of Practice are based on the best available and most current optometric and medical evidence and research and determined from a variety of sources such as educational programs, clinical training, dialogue, and the decision of Optometric Colleges, Associations and Courts.

GUIDELINES

Guidelines describe practices that are generally recommended as part of providing quality optometric care and members are encouraged to follow these recommended courses of action and should exercise reasonable decision making based on the guidelines.

The objective of a guideline is to provide guidance to optometrists. It is not intended to replace professional discretion; nor is it intended to be used as an all-encompassing clinical manual. Clinicians must base their diagnostic, management and treatment regimens on the specific needs of the patient at that point in time.

POLICIES

Policies are principles and rules formulated or adopted by an organization to reach its long-term goals.

Topic	Locator	Type	Adopted	Amended
Definitions of Regulations, Standards of Practice, Guidelines, & Policies			09/30/2016	
Advertising	PB(10.1)	Regulation		
Amblyopia		Guideline		
AMD – Assessment and Management of Patients		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Anterior Segment Examination		Guideline		
Binocular Developmental Vision Assessment Guidelines		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Cataracts – Clinical Care for Patients		Guideline		
Clinical Equipment and Facility Requirements		Standard	09/30/2016	
Contact Lens Fitting		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Custodianship and Retention of Patient Health Records		Regulation		
Cycloplegic Refraction		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Delegation and Assignment		Regulation		
Diabetes Clinical Practice Guideline		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Dilation and Irrigation of Naso-lacrimal ducts		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Disinfection and Infection Control Guidelines		Standard	09/30/2016	
Dry Eye		Guideline		
Electronic Records		Guideline		
Facility Standards		Standard		
Glaucoma Assessment, Treatment and Management		Standard	09/30/2016	
Hypertension		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Initial Contact Lens Fitting		Guideline		
Internet & Online Dispensing		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Internet & Online Dispensing of Contact Lenses		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Iritis		Guideline		
Low Vision Assessment and Therapy		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Marketing and Advertising		Guideline		
Ocular Urgencies and Emergencies		Standard		
Online Dispensing		Guideline		
Patient Records		Standard		
Posterior Segment Examination		Guideline		
Post-Operative Care		Guideline		
Referrals		Standard		
Refractive Assessment and Prescribing		Guideline		
Refractive Surgery – Collaborative Care		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Retention, Ownership and Storage of Patient Files		Regulation		
Sexual Conduct		Regulation	09/30/2016	
Social Media		Guideline	09/30/2016	
Specific Eye Disease and Disorders		Guideline		
Spectacle Therapy		Guideline		
Standards of Practice		Standard		
Telehealth Clinical		Guideline	09/30/2016	
The Use and Prescribing of Drugs		Standard		
Visual Fields Assessment and Therapy		Guideline	09/30/2016	