

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

REFRACTIVE SURGERY & COLLABORATIVE CARE

Name:	Refractive Surgery & Collaborative Care
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“Refractive Surgery” is the general term used for the various forms of surgery used to correct refractive errors of the eye. This includes techniques that use lasers and other forms of electromagnetic energy, implantable lenses, other implantable devices, and incisional techniques. Optometrists provide pre-operative and post-operative care to refractive surgery patients both in their offices and within surgical centers. These arrangements are intended to assist in the delivery of efficient, high quality care.

Optometrists providing care to patients pursuing refractive surgery should:

- Maintain current knowledge of surgical procedures and competence in delivering pre-operative and post-operative care
- Identify pre-operative ocular health, binocular, refractive or systemic conditions that may complicate the surgical procedure or limit the post-surgical outcome.
- Inform patients of the various risks and benefits of the procedure, their options for care providers and all associated fees
- Make a referral to a specialist in refractive surgery outlining relevant history and clinical findings
- Disclose to patients any financial interest in a surgical center to which the optometrist refers the patient

Optometrist providing care to patients post-operatively should:

- Follow the post-operative care regime dictated by the surgical procedure used; examining the patient more frequently as indicated
- Communicate the results of the post-operative assessment to the surgeon in a timely manner
- Inform the refractive surgeon of any changes to the prescribed post-operative drug regimen in a timely manner
- Manage post-operative complications that arise and refer to additional treatment when indicated
- Ensure that patients understand and have access to emergency care.