

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

INTERNET & ONLINE DISPENSING

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The Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists (SAO) supports regulated dispensing. It is a patient's right to take their prescription and fill it as they feel fit. However; to ensure safety and accuracy of eye glasses and contact lenses, online purchases should be provided through a controlled environment. To this end, SAO recommends that optometrists recommend to their patients the following three requirements of dispensing whether purchases occur online or otherwise.

1. A current and valid prescription for eye glasses secured from an optometrist must be verified as a valid prescription
2. Current and valid contact lens specifications prepared by an authorized, regulated eye care professional
3. Patients should be provided access to personal fitting and adjustments of eye glasses by a regulated eye care professional

When the internet is used in the provision of spectacle therapy websites must:

1. Comply with the bylaws of the SAO regarding advertising guidelines
2. Identify the website as belonging to a member registered with the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists
3. Collect and record patient information in a private and secure manner as outlined in the Health Information Protection Act
4. Identify the physical location of the clinic including the address and the hours of operation
5. Include the telephone number to contact the clinic