

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

INTERNET & ONLINE DISPENSING OF CONTACT LENSES

Name:	Internet & Online Dispensing of Contact Lenses
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Optometrists are authorized to prescribe and dispense contact lenses for the treatment of:

- Disorders of refraction or sensory and oculomotor dysfunction of the eye and the vision system
- Diseases or disorders affecting ocular health (e.g. bandage contact lenses)
- Anatomical structural or cosmetic concerns

The provision of this service to patients involves an initial assessment to determine suitability of patients for contact lens therapy, a determination of the parameters of a contact lens appropriate for the patient, and ongoing monitoring of the efficacy of treatment including eye health.

Contact lenses are classified by Health Canada as a medical device, not a consumer commodity, and should be treated accordingly.

Upon request, the optometrist is required to provide the patient with a written signed and dated optical prescription that can be used for contact lens therapy by a dispenser of the patient's choice.

When the internet is used in the provision of contact lens therapy, the website must:

1. Comply with the advertising guidelines as outlined in the Professional Bylaws and Standards of Care
2. Identify the website as belonging to a registered member of 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 (HIPA)
4. Identify the physical location of the clinic including address, telephone number and the hours of operation

If a member is provided online services to new patients whom they have not fit for contact lenses they would then be required to:

1. Confirm a current and valid optical prescription
2. Ensure appropriate eye health care is being provided for the assessment and follow-up
3. Provide a copy of contact lens specifications on request; however, it would not be necessary to provide an optical prescription if the member did not physically fit the patient