

# STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

## AFTER-HOURS AVAILABILITY

<b>Name:</b>	After-Hours Availability
<b>Date Approved:</b>	03/15/2019
<b>Date Updated:</b>	
<b>Number:</b>	SP-C-17
<b>Type:</b>	Clinical Standard (C)
<b>Reference:</b>	

The Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists considers quality and efficiency in optometric care is best served if the optometrist who normally examines and treats the patient is available to guide the patient to the most appropriate care; nevertheless, the physical and mental well-being of any health care practitioner would be severely affected should they be forced to provide on-call service 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

The following recommendations are for the purposes of after-hours availability of regulated members:

1. Should the regulated member be away from his/her office for a length of time, the member should ensure patients have clear instructions to seek individuals qualified to provide care of medical eye problems and conditions including other optometrists in that office, other optometrists in the vicinity, ophthalmologists, family physicians, and/or emergency room departments.
2. The SAO considers it appropriate that your office telephone answering machine and/or sign on the front door of your office list an alternate telephone number for patients to call for after-hours care as required.