

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

Name:	Malpractice Insurance
Date Approved:	09/14/2019
Date Updated:	
Number:	SP-LR-7
Type:	Licensing Requirements (LR)
Reference:	The Optometric Professional Bylaws Licensing (3.1) An application to the Registrar made pursuant to Section 21 of <i>The Optometry Act, 1985</i> for a license or a license renewal shall be on the prescribed forms, shall be accompanied by the fee prescribed by Council, and shall be accompanied by proof that the applicant is insurance under a contract of malpractice insurance per occurrence, at a minimum insured value determined by Council. The Registrar may refuse to issue a license, or renew a license, unless all licensing requirements have been met.

Definition

Occurrence policies need to be in place for the date that a claim or incident occurs. If a claim is brought forward, even after you have retired, you will be covered if the claim happened while you were paying premiums. Coverage (for the years you paid premiums) continues when you let the insurance policy expire upon retirement.

Claims made policies will cover you for claims while you are paying premiums. After you retire, you may continue to be covered if you purchase tail coverage (which is insurance to cover you if a claim is made outside the time you were paying the main premium). As claims made policies have coverage for claims that present while you are paying for coverage, if no tail coverage is in place after retirement then there is no insurance for that claim.

Each member should make their liability insurer selection based on their own preference and situation. The office you intend to practice in might already have a preferred insurance provider. The Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) also offers a liability insurance option as a member benefit.

License Requirement

Members must provide confirmation they are insured and maintain coverage under a policy of profession malpractice insurance with a minimum coverage of two million dollars for each occurrence while they are licensed to practice optometry in Saskatchewan.

The SAO does not have a preference of liability providers. The SAO prefers members sign an authorization allowing the SAO to obtain a copy of the member's insurance renewal directly from the member's provider. Members simply sign and return the attached form to the SAO office.

Date_____

Dear SAO Member:

For your convenience, and to streamline renewal procedures, we have prepared an authorization document to allow us to contact your insurer directly for a copy of your liability coverage renewals. To simplify our record-keeping procedures, please sign the following agreement.

The College of the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists office understands the importance of protecting your personal information and we are committed to collecting, using and disclosing your personal information responsibly.

Respectfully,



Dr Jake Kelly, Registrar

I, Dr _____ (print) hereby authorize the Registrar and/or the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists to obtain a copy of my liability insurance from my current insurance carrier.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20____.

(signature)