

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

TELEOPTOMETRY

Name:	Teleoptometry
Date Approved:	09/30/2016
Date Updated:	09/15/2018 02/08/2020
Number:	SP-PM-11
Type:	Practice Management Standards (PM)
Reference:	02.08.20 MOTION "To approve STANDARD OF PRACTICE SP-PM-11 Teleoptometry replacing GUIDELINE G-C-4 Telehealth." CARRIED.

Teleoptometry means the provision of optometric diagnosis, consultation and patient care through digital/electronic communication where:

- The patient and optometrist are in different locations
- The optometrist and other health professional are in different locations

The SAO recognizes and supports the use of teleoptometry to extend optometric services in all areas of Saskatchewan providing it adheres to the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrist's legislation.

Directives

1. When a complete oculo-visual assessment is provided the optometrist must control the subjective refraction.
2. Optometrists who practice teleoptometry for a patient located in Saskatchewan must:
 - Hold a valid and active Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists license to practice optometry in the Province of Saskatchewan
 - Adhere to the SAO Standards of Practice and Guidelines
3. Saskatchewan optometrists who practice teleoptometry for patients located outside of Saskatchewan must comply with the licensing and registration requirements of the jurisdiction in which the patient is located.
4. Saskatchewan optometrists must not issue, generate, or sign a pharmaceutical prescription by electronic or other means unless the optometrist:
 - Obtains an appropriate history and conducts an appropriate examination of the patient adequate to establish a diagnosis and identify underlying conditions,
 - Ensures there are no absolute contraindications to the treatment recommended or provided
 - Has an appropriate, informed discussion and consent to ensure the patient understands the risks, benefits, and course of action if concerns are identified
 - Is in consultation with another optometrist or other health care practitioner who has an ongoing relationship with the patient and who has agreed to provide ongoing supervision of the patient's treatment
 - Is in on-call or cross-coverage situation in which the prescribing optometrist has access to the patient's medical and/or optometric records