

Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Dispensing Opticians and Optometrists – Suggested Changes

FODO Ireland represents eye care providers and registered opticians throughout the Republic. Our aim is to deliver eye health for all through world-class services provided by regulated community-based clinicians. Our members include both independent and corporate opticians who operate as primary eye care contractors and individual practitioners. FODO Ireland members deliver over 55 per cent of the eye care by volume in Ireland and in excess of 425,000 eye examinations per year. Our mission is to achieve eye health for all, delivered through world-class services, provided by regulated community-based optometrists and dispensing opticians operating in a competitive environment.

Below we have listed some suggested changes that we believe are necessary to improve the already strong documents and to make them more relevant to registered optics professionals.

Section	Issue/ Text	Suggested Change
2.1d	Where you decide that disclosure is justified, you should ensure that the disclosure is made to an appropriate person...	you should ensure that the disclosure is made to an appropriate person <i>or body (e.g. CORU / Tusla / National Driver Licensing Service)</i>
9c	refer the service user promptly to another professional and transfer any records relating to the service user to the other professional in circumstances where the service user has the right to a second opinion and it is within your authority to make such a referral	Include: <i>ensuring to advise the service user that a subsequent examination may attract an additional cost.</i> Some patients receiving eye care are entitled to limited free testing, as such, any second opinion may incur an extra cost for the patient.
24.1b	You must not: For reasons of personal or commercial benefit, direct public service users to private practice	Include: <i>Within the agreed scope of practice/ standards of proficiency for the profession you must not:...</i> The eye care sector involves an inherent melding of the clinical and retail realms; where testing is carried out for both State and privately funded patients, prescriptions provided, with a range of frames being available at different price points for the patient. As such all optometrists and dispensing opticians would be in breach of this section of the code by referring patients to their own store or another store of their chain for the dispensing of spectacles.
26	Make sure that any advertising is truthful, accurate and lawful	Add point d. <i>ensure that patients are aware of all options including entitlements to free care under state schemes.</i>