

## Framework for a Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics – 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 a strong document and to make it more relevant to registered optics professionals.

Section	Issue/ Text	Suggested Change
1g	Protect service users if you believe they are at risk from another professional's conduct, performance or health	Include: <i>or may be at risk from....</i>
2d	Obtain the consent of a service user before discussing confidential information with their friends family or other professionals involved in his/her care	What if practitioner has to reveal information to others? We suggest including a sentence on these cases. e.g. as discussed in section 11h when providing treatment in an emergency in the absence of consent so as to save the patient's life or avoid significant deterioration.
2b	be aware of the following circumstances in which disclosure of confidential information in the absence of consent may be appropriate or justifiable	Include additional point: <i>to prevent harm to the patient/service user</i>
3d	Exploit or discriminate against service users or staff in the workplace, or condone discrimination by others	Include: <i>staff and colleagues in the workplace.</i>  Other clinicians in the workplace may not be directly employed by the service provider e.g. students or volunteers
9c	Accept that a service user has the right to a second opinion from another professional. If asked, you must refer the service user promptly to another professional and transfer any records relating to the service user to the other professional	Include: <i>at the service user's own cost.</i>  Patients receiving eye care are entitled to limited free testing and will pay for their spectacles, as such, any second opinion may incur an extra cost for the patient.
11h	Provide treatment or other intervention in an emergency in the absence of consent	Amend to note sections 2d and 2b.

	where this is necessary to save life or avoid significant deterioration in the health of the service user	
23a	You must not: For reasons of personal or commercial benefit, direct public service users to private practice	<p>Include: <i>Within the agreed scope of practice/ standards of proficiency for the profession you must not:...</i></p> <p>The eye care sector involves an inherent melding of the clinical and retail realms; where testing is carried out, 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.</p>