



Standard 8: Dispensing of Vision Appliances

Applies to Opticianry

The College of Health and Care Professionals of BC was created on June 28, 2024 through the amalgamation of seven health regulatory colleges:

- College of Dietitians of British Columbia
- College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia
- College of Optometrists of British Columbia
- College of Opticians of British Columbia
- College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia
- College of Psychologists of British Columbia
- College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia

All current requirements for standards of clinical and ethical practice issued by the seven colleges remain in place upon amalgamation.

This document was created by the College of Opticians of British Columbia and will be updated to reflect the amalgamation.

Standard 8: Dispensing of Vision Appliances

Description

The optician only dispenses vision appliances that are appropriate for the client.

Expected Outcome

The client can expect their optician to conduct an assessment, take appropriate measurements, and produce vision appliances that meet the client's visual needs.

Criteria

- 8.1 Own, be employed in, or have access to a practice environment that meets the requirements for providing services, as outlined in the Standards of Practice.
- 8.2 Provide COBC with contact information for the practice environment where dispensing services take place, including the mailing address, telephone number, and email address.
- 8.3 Have continuous access to all ophthalmic tools and equipment necessary for the services offered in the practice environment.
- 8.4 Only dispense vision appliances based on a prescription or assessment record that contains all the following:
 - a. The name and signature of the prescriber (if using a prescription) or the name and licence number of the optician who performed the refraction (if using an assessment record).
 - b. The client's name.
 - c. The client's refractive error.
 - d. The date of the examination/assessment.
- 8.5 Educate the client about the importance of regular eye health examinations conducted by prescribers.
- 8.6 Retain a copy of the original prescription or assessment record as part of the client record.
- 8.7 Analyze the client's visual needs and use their prescription or assessment record to recommend appropriate vision appliances.
- 8.8 Assist the client in selecting appropriate vision appliances.

Related Standards of Practice

- Standard 1: Client-Centred Practice
- Standard 2: Evidence-Informed Practice
- Standard 3: Collaborative Care
- Standard 4: Cultural Safety, Cultural Humility, and Anti-Racism
- Standard 6: Professionalism
- Standard 10: Remote Practice and Technology
- Standard 14: Record Keeping and Billing
- Standard 15: Communication and Marketing

EYEGASSES

- 8.9 Review the client's environment, occupation, hobbies, regular activities, and other applicable considerations when recommending ophthalmic lenses and frames.
- 8.10 Take the client's measurements as required to ensure proper functioning of their eyeglasses.
- 8.11 Verify that the client's completed eyeglasses are as ordered and within tolerance.
- 8.12 Adjust, fit, and adapt the eyeglasses to meet the needs of the client.
- 8.13 Document in the client record the services provided and products dispensed to the client, including (but not limited to):
 - a. lens type
 - b. frame details (make, model, colour, size)
 - c. measurements
 - d. which, if any, components of the dispensed product(s) (e.g., lenses, frames) were brought into the practice environment by the client, having been obtained or purchased separately
- 8.14 Educate the client about eyeglass wear, including (but not limited to) the use, expected results, limitations, adaptation period, and maintenance requirements of eyeglasses.
- 8.15 If the eyeglasses are to be used as safety glasses, adhere to safety standards and tolerances for personal protective eyewear.
- 8.16 When duplicating the client's prescription from an existing pair of eyeglasses, note the duplication in the client record.

CONTACT LENSES

- 8.17 Be registered with COBC as a contact lens fitter.
- 8.18 Review the client's history to determine the suitability of contact lenses as a vision solution based on all the following:
 - a. An assessment of the cornea, the conjunctiva and lids, and the tear layer.
 - b. The corneal curvature.
 - c. Any relevant medications.
 - d. Other relevant factors, including client's environment, work, hobbies, daily activities, and history.

- 8.19 Educate the client about the advantages, risks, and limitations of contact lens wear.
- 8.20 Recommend the most appropriate type of contact lens based on the client information.
- 8.21 Consider the client's refractive error, vision requirements, and environmental factors when determining contact lens specifications.
- 8.22 Use trial contact lenses to evaluate physical fit and visual performance, and make modifications as required.
 - a. Verify that the client's completed contact lenses are as ordered and within tolerance.
 - b. Provide—and document as provided—any relevant details or recommendations related to:
 - i. Lens hygiene.
 - ii. Lens insertion and removal.
 - iii. Lens care.
 - iv. Wear time and replacement schedules.
 - v. Adaptive symptoms.
 - vi. Contraindications.
 - vii. Follow-up schedules.
 - viii. How and when to access emergency care.
- 8.23 Develop and provide an ongoing client follow-up plan.
- 8.24 After the client has completed the successful follow-up assessment(s), document that the contact lens fitting is complete and the recommended specifications are accurate.
- 8.25 Provide an initial fitting to a client who is seeking replacement contact lenses but does not have a prior contact lens record on file.
- 8.26 After completion of service, provide the client with a contact lens record containing their updated specifications.
- 8.27 When providing replacement contact lenses or services to a client who has a contact lens record on file:
 - a. Ensure the client's clinical information is current; if it is not, treat the client visit as an initial fitting.
 - b. Determine the need for alterations to previous lens specifications and make adjustments accordingly.
 - c. Advise the client of the need for continuing care, and explain what to expect.

- d. Confirm the parameters of the contact lenses ordered.
 - e. Provide follow-up services in accordance with the service plan.
 - f. Provide the client with a new contact lens record containing their updated specifications after completion of service.
- 8.28 When providing replacement contact lenses or services to a client who does not have a prior contact lens record on file but who has provided their own contact lens record:
- a. Determine any risks related to providing replacement contact lenses without an initial fitting, and communicate these risks to the client.
 - b. Produce and maintain a client record appropriate for the service, and retain a copy of the contact lens record provided by the client.
 - c. Document the reasons for providing replacement contact lenses without an initial fitting in the client record.

LOW VISION DEVICES

- 8.29 Demonstrate and recommend low vision devices suited to the client's visual requirements and functional needs.
- 8.30 Instruct the client on the use of the recommended low vision devices.
- 8.31 Evaluate and monitor client success with their low vision device(s) and recommend additional or alternative devices, as necessary.