

ADVICE & GUIDELINES ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

FOR DISPENSING OPTICIANS

SECTION 1: THE STATUS OF THE PROFESSION

Introduction

The Advice and Guidelines

1. The Advice and Guidelines which follow, although not exclusive, are issued in pursuance of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians' (ABDO) objectives in maintaining for the public benefit the highest standards of professional competence and conduct. With changing circumstances the Association expects its attention will be drawn to new forms of practice or duties which might require fresh or amended advice to the profession.
2. This Advice and Guidelines replaces that issued in 2003.
3. The profession of dispensing opticians was created in 1925 and was given statutory registered professional status in 1958.
4. The profession is regulated partly by legal provisions and partly by advice issued by ABDO.

References

In compiling these guidelines, reference was made to the following:

The GOC Code of Conduct of March 2004 (See Appendix G)

The Advice and Guidelines of the College of Optometrists (as current in 2005)

The websites of :

Association of Optometrists

British Standards Institution

College of Optometrists

Data Protection Agency

Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians

General Optical Council

Health and Safety Executive

Optical Consumer Complaints Service

Medical Devices Agency

vCJD (ABDO/College of Optometrists Joint Working Group – October 2001)

Association of Optometrists Members Handbook (April 2002 – amended)

(For full website addresses see Appendix G)

Legal Provisions

5. The principal legal provisions which regulate dispensing opticians are as follows:-

- The Registration Rules 2005
- The Sale of Optical Appliances Order of Council 1984
- The Rules on the Fitting of Contact Lenses 1985 (with amendments)
- The Contact Lens (Qualification) Rules 1988 (as amended) (further amended)
- The Opticians Act 1989 (with amendments)
- The Contact Lens (Specification) Rules 1989 (as amended)
- The Rules relating to Injury or Disease of the Eye 1999 (with amendments)
- The Fitness to Practise Rules 2005
- The Continuing Education & Training Rules 2005
- The Committee Constitution Rules 2005
- The Fees Rules 2005
- (All GOC rules affecting Dispensing Opticians)

The above can all be found in the General Optical Council Opticians Register (available from the GOC and printed annually). Members of the dispensing profession should acquaint themselves with the detail of these, and of the 1989 Act in particular.

In addition the following general legislation applies:

- Sex Discrimination Act 1975
- Race Relations Act 1976
- Consumer Protection Act 1987
- Access to Health Records Act 1990
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Price Marking Order 1999
- Medical Devices Directive 1998 as amended 2001
- The Enterprise Act 2002

For subsequent legislation and rules see the GOC website at www.optical.org
(For other useful websites see Appendix G)