



Te Poari o ngā Kaimātai Whatu me ngā Kaiwahakarato Mōhiti

CONSULTATION – REVISED STANDARDS OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE FOR DISPENSING OPTICIANS

Released: 13 April 2022

Submission due date: 18 May 2022

Introduction

1. The principal purpose of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act of 2003 (the HPCA Act) is to protect public health and safety by ensuring that health practitioners are fit and competent to practise their professions. In accordance with this, one of the functions of the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board (the Board), under section 118(i) of the HPCA Act, is to set the standards of clinical and cultural competence and ethical conduct to be observed by Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians in practising their professions competently.
2. The standards set by the Board are the minimum standards that the public and professions expect an Optometrist or Dispensing Optician to meet and are developed in consultation with these groups as well as other relevant stakeholders. They should be used by practitioners to monitor and reflect on their conduct and that of their colleagues, and by the public, as a guide for assessing the minimum ethical standard to expect of their practitioner and when there may have been a departure from these. They may also be relied upon in other contexts such as employment disputes, Court or disciplinary proceedings as a measure by which an Optometrist or Dispensing Optician can be held to.

Background

3. The Board's current *Standards of Clinical Competence for Dispensing Opticians* were last reviewed in 2016, and therefore, well overdue for review. The current standards can be found in **Appendix 1** but are also available on the Board's website¹ (www.odob.health.nz).
4. In reviewing the *Standards of Clinical Competence for Dispensing Opticians* (2016), the Board formed a working group consisting of Board members and co-opted members of the Association of Dispensing Opticians of New Zealand (ADONZ), and educational institutions. The latter included a representative from the Australasian College of Optical Dispensing (ACOD). The working group was asked to review the document and provide recommendations on suggested changes to the Board for consideration.

¹ <https://www.odob.health.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FINAL-DO-Clinical-Standards-2016.pdf>

5. These (draft) revised standards were considered at the Board's November 2022 meeting and approved to be used to consult with practitioners and stakeholders before final decisions are made on changes to the document.
6. Overall, the Board considered that the current standards remain largely fit for purpose. However, following the update to the Scope of Practice for Dispensing Opticians and the addition of the delegated tasks, these standards were revised to include the competencies to support these delegated tasks. This will ensure it encompasses the full spectrum of competencies required for contemporary safe practice and included formatting changes with the inclusion of a table with units, domains, elements, and performance criteria. Attached as **Appendix 2** are the revised draft standards.

Proposal

7. The Board proposes to replace the current *Standards of Clinical Competence for Dispensing Opticians (2016)* with the revised standards detailed in **Appendix 2** below.
8. Stakeholders are now invited to provide submissions on the proposed new standards.

Attachments

9. Appendix 1 – The Board's current *Standards of Clinical Competence for Dispensing Opticians (2016)*
10. Appendix 2 – The Board's (draft) revised Clinical Standards for Dispensing Opticians (2022)

How to have your say

11. Your views on the proposed amendments to the standards are welcome. If you wish to make a submission, please provide it in writing by **5pm 18 May 2022**. The Board does not guarantee that submissions received at the Board's office after that date will be considered.
12. There is no specific format required for your submission, but please consider the following questions when making your submission on the revised standards:
 1. Are there anything missing from the revised standards? Please explain why.
 2. Do any elements of the revised standards require clarification or further guidance? Please explain why.
 3. Do the revised standards cause concern? If so, please explain why.
 4. Are there anything else you wish to mention regarding the revised standards? If so, please explain why.
13. Submissions can be emailed to registrar@odob.health.nz, or submitted via post at:

The Registrar
Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board
PO Box 9644