

# Standard 5: Competence

## Related Standards of Practice

- Standard 2: Evidence-Informed Practice
- Standard 3: Collaborative Care
- Standard 16: Risk Management and Quality Improvement

## Description

The optician develops and maintains their competence to best serve clients and protect the public.

## Expected Outcome

The client can expect their optician to be competent in all areas of practice for which care is provided. This requires that the optician maintain the necessary skills, qualifications, and experience to deliver quality care.

## Criteria

- 5.1 Take responsibility for maintaining professional competence.
- 5.2 Maintain up-to-date knowledge of legislation, standards, policies, and third-party agreements pertaining to the delivery of opticianry care and to the education and general welfare of clients.
- 5.3 Develop and maintain knowledge and competence in existing and emerging areas of practice.
- 5.4 Actively engage in self-reflection to identify competency gaps and learning needs.
- 5.5 Participate in educational activities to address self-identified learning needs and meet the continuing education requirements of COBC.
- 5.6 Where the ability to practice opticianry is compromised or impaired, do not provide services.
- 5.7 Only perform tasks if sufficiently educated and experienced to do so, having maintained the necessary skills, knowledge, judgment, and capacity to perform those tasks competently and safely.
- 5.8 Where competent and high-quality care cannot be provided, refer the client to another optician or regulated health care professional, or assist them in finding the necessary professional help.