



## **ACO Code of Ethics**

ACO members practising optometry will strive for excellence in delivering eyecare to the whole community.

ACO members practising optometry will:

1. Practise in accordance with professional standards and adhere to the Optometry Board of Optometry Code of Conduct for Optometrists;
2. Act in the best interests of their patients irrespective of their social or ethnic background, gender, disability, age, sexuality, health status or ability to pay;
3. Act in an honest and conscientious way and to conduct themselves to the best of their ability so as to earn the trust of patients and the community;
4. Hold in professional confidence all information concerning a patient;
5. Respect patients' autonomy and dignity and ensure they are properly informed about their clinical conditions so that they can make their own informed decisions about appropriate treatments;
6. Strive to enhance their knowledge and skill so as to ensure that their patients receive the benefits of the advances in their profession;
7. Work within their level of professional competence and not misrepresent their competence or qualifications;
8. Refer patients to a colleague or to another health care practitioner whenever the skills and knowledge of the colleague or other practitioner are needed to resolve the visual or health problems of the patient;
9. Share with their colleagues their learning and knowledge to maintain and promote relationships with colleagues and members of other professions;
10. Advocate and promote adherence to the highest standards of optometric care by the profession.

## **Conduct Standards**

1. I do not have a criminal conviction recorded against me.
2. I have not had any ruling of unprofessional conduct, professional misconduct or similar made against me.
3. I have not had any disciplinary action taken against me by any government agency, regulatory body or other health organization.
4. I have not had any disciplinary action taken against me in the areas of equal employment opportunity, breach of contract or workplace behaviour.
5. I have never been found guilty of fraud or disciplinary action regarding any research I am undertaking or have ever undertaken.