



## **ADVISORY NO. MRD - 2**

**[Please file in your ACO Practitioner Manual in the “Advisories” Section - Replaces Advisory No. MRD-1]**

**Date: January 1, 2008**

**Subject: MANDATORY REGISTRATION AND DELEGATION**

---

According to Section 46 of the Health Professions Act (HPA), all health care professionals must apply for registration with their College if their College is governed by the HPA and if that health care professional:

- [a] Is qualified to meet the requirements of registration as a qualified member; and,
- [b] Intends to provide any or all of the following:
  - [i] Professional services directly to the public;
  - [ii] Teaching of the practice of a regulated profession to regulated members or students of the regulated profession;
  - [iii] Supervision of regulated members who provide professional services to the public.

In addition, according to Section 47 of the HPA, no person shall knowingly employ a person who meets the above requirements; unless that employed person is a regulated member of a College governed by the HPA or is authorized to provide the services pursuant to another enactment. If one of your employees is registered with a regulatory college other than the ACO, that employee is required to follow the standards and rules of their own regulatory college. Therefore, the ACO recommends all optometrists verify that the standards and rules followed in their individual offices do not conflict with the standards and rules as set out by your employee’s regulatory college.

Mandatory Registration and Delegation.....page 2

Therefore, it is the opinion of the Alberta College of Optometrists (ACO), that all optometrists who meet the above requirements must be registered with this College. It is also the opinion of the ACO that any employees of optometrists (such as opticians, nurses, etc.) who have their own regulatory college under the Health Professions Act and who meet the above requirements must be registered with their own regulatory college.

Since optometric assistants, ophthalmic assistants, and other staff without designations do not have regulatory colleges with whom they must register, their actions and duties must be supervised by a regulated optometrist. Supervision of these individuals requires:

- [a] That the optometrist be available for consultation at all times;  
and
- [b] That the optometrist is satisfied that the individual is competent to perform the duties required of them.