



ADVISORY NO. RSR – 2

**[Please retain in your ACO Practitioner binder in the “Advisories” Section.
Replaces Advisory No. RSR-1.]**

Date: January 1, 2008

**Subject: REMOTE SUPERVISION OF
A REFRACTION**

The Alberta College of Optometrists (ACO) does not endorse the practice of optometrists supervising remote refractions.

In an effort to eliminate the risk of ocular and systemic pathology being overlooked when a patient receives a remote refraction, the ACO recommends that all patients receive a complete oculo-visual and eye health examination on a regular basis as clinically required and as determined by the optometrist.

The ACO also considers that any waiver signed by a patient to forego the balance of an oculo-visual and eye health examination, even when that waiver acknowledges the associated risks, represents patient acceptance of substandard eye health care. Such a waiver is unlikely to withstand the rigors of ethical and legal scrutiny regarding informed consent.

Although one other regulatory college in Alberta endorses their members' right to supervise remote refractions, the ACO considers those health care practitioners who supervise a remote refraction and sign a prescription generated in this manner are responsible for:

- [a] the accuracy of the prescription;
- [b] the conduct of the individuals performing the remote refraction under their supervision;
and
- [c] the legal implications of any adverse outcome(s) as a result of the remote refraction.