



## ADVISORY NO. CT – 2

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

**Date: January 1, 2008**

**Subject: CO-THERAPY**

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Co-therapy is deemed to exist where an optometrist includes or recommends the services of another independent health care practitioner or provider in the treatment of a patient.

An optometrist has an ethical responsibility to:

- [a] Take reasonable steps to ensure the independent health care practitioner or provider has the appropriate qualifications.
- [b] Properly differentiate services attributable to the independent health care practitioner or provider; and
- [c] Ensure that the remuneration paid to the independent health care practitioner or provider is not influenced by patient volume, and is independent of all other potential conflict(s) of interest.

It is the opinion of the Alberta College of Optometrists that optometrists and co-therapists bill independently of one another for their services and ensure that the specific natures of their independent services are explained to the patient in advance of any treatment regimen.

This advisory applies only to independent health care practitioners or providers, and not to the health care providers or other staff under the employ of an optometrist.