

Purchasing Groups

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It has recently come to the attention of the College that there are a number of "purchasing groups" offering members, in one way or another, the offer of obtaining ophthalmic material and ophthalmic products at what they state are substantially reduced net costs.

While these "groups" can carry on their business without interference from the College, the College does have a concern and responsibility as to their effects upon the public and the members of the College.

If members of the College do become members of these "groups" and if members do realize a reduction in the costs of the ophthalmic material utilized by the members in the performance of their service and, which costs are incurred by the members in the provision of their service, then the members are required to pass on those reduced costs to their patients.

Failure to pass these reductions in the costs of materials and products used by members in providing care to their patients would be considered as a conflict of interest and hence professional misconduct.