

Multiple Practice Locations

Council, Sept. 2004

At the meeting of September 20, 2004, Council approved a new policy clarifying the criteria for reporting a practice location.

The vast majority of members practise in one or two established locations. However, some members do practise in multiple locations on a regular or irregular basis. Multiple locations could include nursing homes, First Nations Reserves, or making house calls on an as-needed basis.

The Professional Misconduct Regulation states that it is an act of professional misconduct for a member to engage “in the practice of optometry by employment, association, partnership or otherwise in more than three locations, or holding out that the member is doing so, without the approval of Council.”

The purpose of the new policy is to guide members in their understanding of when a practice location must be reported to the College, as follows:

If an optometrist meets one or more of the following criteria, he/she must report the location to the College:

- *practise or plan to practise 14 or more days per year or four or more days in any one month in that location;*
- *the clinical records are maintained on-site; or*
- *there is published contact information related to or referencing the location.*

Council retains the discretion to grant optometrists the ability to practise in more than three locations.