



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 DILG NAPOLCOM CENTER, EDSA cor. QUEZON AVENUE, QUEZON CITY
<http://www.dilg.gov.ph>



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
 No. 2017 - 88

July 14, 2017

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTOS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS OFFICERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : BOARD OF OPTOMETRY RESOLUTION NO. 11 SERIES OF 2016

The Board of Optometry of the Professional Regulation Commission (BOPRC) adopted Board Resolution No. 11 Series of 2006 with the title “*Rules and Regulation Governing the Examination and Registration of Optometrists and the Regulation of the Practice of Optometry*” and issued the same on November 29, 2016.

The said Board Resolution was issued by the BOPRC amending Board Resolution No. 1, Series of 2008 and highlights the following provisions:

1. SEC. 39 - Advertisements;
2. SEC. 40 – Display of Certificate of Registration, valid Professional Identification Card (PIC), Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Certificate of Completion and Department of Health-Food and Drug Administration (DOH-FDA) License to Operate Medical Device Establishment;
3. SEC. 41 – Professional Practice;
4. SEC. 42 – Consultant, Advisor or Staff Optometrist;
5. SEC. 43 – Independent Contractor;
6. SEC. 44 – Office/Clinic;
7. SEC. 45 – Service Delivery;
8. SEC. 46 – Instruments and Equipments;
9. SEC. 47 – Physical Facilities;
10. SEC. 48 – Time and Manner of Examination;
11. SEC. 49 - Frontline Offering and Selling;
12. SEC. 50 – Quality Improvement Activities;
13. SEC. 51 – Information Management; and
14. SEC. 53 – Dispensing of Medical Devices.

“Matino, Mahusay at Maaasahan”
 DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone Number 925.11.48 * 925.88.88 * 925.03.32
www.dilg.gov.ph

All DILG Regional Directors and Field Officers are hereby directed to cause the widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular to LGUs within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

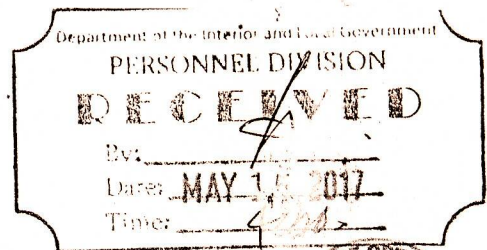
For any inquiry regarding the amended provisions as per Board Resolution No. 11, please refer to the documents attached herewith.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


CATALINO S. CUYIN
OIC - DILG



DILG-OSEC 07012016-8102



Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila



Hon. Catalino S. Cuy
Officer-in-Charge
Department of Interior and Local Government

Dear Hon. Cuy,

Greetings!

This is to update the DILG on PRC Board Resolution No. 11 Series of 2016, "Rules and Regulation Governing the Examination and Registration of Optometrists and the Regulation of the Practice of Optometry".

Highlighted is Section 44. Office /Clinic, to wit:

SECTION 44. OFFICE/CLINIC- The following rules shall govern the operation of Optometry offices/clinics:

- a. An Optometrist shall notify the Board of the location of his/her office/clinic, and supply photographs thereof, within thirty (30) days from the date of securing the premises (lease contract if not owned) **to allow the inspection and monitoring of the same by the Board.** If the optometrist is employed or does not own the place of practice, he/she must likewise inform the Board of this fact. Any change in location of the clinic or place of practice shall likewise be reported to the Board;
- e. **An Optometry/Optical Clinic shall be manned by a licensed Optometrist during regular operating hours.**

May we request a meeting with His Honorable on strategic plans for the effective dissemination and implementation of the enclosed Board Resolution for all DILG offices including the Barangay offices engage in the business permits application and renewal.

Thank you,

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DR. TERESITA R. YAMBOT
Chairperson
Board of Optometry



BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
Resolution No. 11
Series of 2016

**AMENDING RULES VII AND VIII OF BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 01, SERIES OF 2008,
"RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF
OPTOMETRISTS AND THE REGULATION OF THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY"**

Pursuant to Section 35 of Republic Act No. 8050, also referred to as the "Revised Optometry Law of 1995", the Professional Regulatory Board of Optometry (Board) hereby issues and promulgates, subject to the approval of the Professional Regulation Commission (Commission), the following amendments to Board Resolution No. 1, Series of 2008, or the "Rules and Regulations Governing the Examination and Registration of Optometrists and the Regulation of the Practice of Optometry."

Subst a

Section 1. Sections 39, 40, 41 and 42 of Rule VII are hereby amended, to read as follows:

SEC. 39. Advertisements - An Optometrist, in making known his/her services, shall use true, honest, fair, dignified and objective information or statement of facts. An Optometrist shall not use or permit the use of any false, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, undignified, self-laudatory or unfair statement or claim regarding his/her qualifications. Unprofessional and unethical conduct in advertisement as used herein shall include, but not be limited, to the following acts:

of

- a) Using or permitting the use of advertisement which is self-laudatory as regards the performance of service, number and types of services rendered, exclusivity and/or superiority of methods of practice/ treatment and instrumentation utilized;
- b) Using or permitting the use of advertisement which is deceptive and misleading;
- c) Using or permitting the use of advertisement demeaning to the profession and which tends to foster discrimination, degrading and unfair competition, such as those which:
 - 1. contain any form of reference to fees collected from the patient, which shall include, but not be limited, to the cost of examination, lenses; frames, mountings or any other optometric service or procedure, article or device rendered or given to the patient which are unreasonably lower than the customary rates;
 - 2. state in any form the rendering of free eye examination or other gratuitous services, bonuses, premiums, discounts, sales, prizes or any other forms of financial inducements, with a view of attracting or soliciting patronage;
 - 3. contain unrealistic, exaggerated and false warranties as regards the services rendered;
- d) Using or permitting the use of advertisement which is undignified, immodest and vulgar; and
- e) Directly or indirectly soliciting patients by way of:
 - 1. Canvassing;
 - 2. Employing solicitors, public agents, entertainers, lecturers and the like for the purpose of inviting or attracting patronage; and
 - 3. Using groups, institutions or organizations.

Articles

Rule

SEC. 40. Display of Certificate of Registration, valid Professional Identification Card (PIC), Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Certificate of Completion and Department of Health-Food and Drug Administration (DOH-FDA) License to Operate Medical Device Establishment - An Optometrist shall prominently display his/her Certificate of Registration, valid Professional Identification Card (PIC) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Certificate of Completion in a conspicuous area/portion of his/her clinic, office or place where optometric services are being offered and rendered. The License to Operate issued by the DOH-FDA shall likewise be displayed or exhibited in an area within the office/clinic that is accessible to public viewing.

SEC. 41. Professional Practice - The practice of Optometry shall be governed by the highest standards of professionalism with the aim of promoting the visual welfare of the public and the best standards of professional care.

- Handwritten: 1/16/2010*
- Handwritten: Provided*
- a) The practice of Optometry shall be conducted only in such premises used exclusively for optometric practice such as a regular clinic/office/place, of which shall be
 - 1. maintained in keeping with the professional standards of other practitioners in primary care and allied health professions in terms of practice location, clinical and office environment and professional attitudes; and
 - 2. conducive for the exercise of independent clinical judgment and shall promote autonomy of management procedures, except in cases of multi-disciplinary management with members of allied health professions.
 - b) An Optometrist shall not examine patients outside his/her regular office/clinic unless an unsolicited request is made for patients who are not ambulant; or for health or occupational reasons, are unable to visit the Optometrist's regular office/clinic.
 - c) An Optometrist shall not use mobile units for the purpose of examining, dispensing or selling eyeglasses or other visual aids in relation to public services unless with the permission and under the auspices of the concerned national or public health officials and/or the accredited and integrated association of optometrists and/or its local chapter/s; and
 - d) An Optometrist may hold office/clinic, together with members of other allied health professions.

SEC. 42. Consultant, Advisor or Staff Optometrist - An Optometrist may be engaged:

- a) As a consultant of any business/industry engaged in the optical, ophthalmic manufacturing or distribution;
- b) As a staff optometrist or optometric administrator of any municipal, city, provincial, regional or national government office or agency, research organization, educational institution, insurance company or licensed health facility or hospital; or
- c) By natural or juridical persons who are not Optometrists or physicians, only in cases of retainerships, where the optometrist serves as an in-house Optometrist, consultant or the like, only for the health/technical needs of the employees of his/her employer and not those of the general public.

Section 2 The following provision is hereby inserted as Sections 43 of Rule VII:

SEC. 43. Independent Contractor - Except in cases when an Optometrist is under the employ of another Optometrist, an Optometrist may only be engaged as an independent contractor in an optical business retailing owned by juridical persons: *Provided*, that all the legal requirements set forth in R. A. No. 8050, R. A. No. 8981 and R. A. No. 9711 and their Rules and Regulations on professional practice standards with respect to the

physical facility, instruments and equipment, reportorial requirements, and the like, are complied with by the management. In no instance may the management interfere or influence the professional judgment of the Optometrist as to the manner of conducting or rendering of the latter's services, including chair time, prescription and dispensing of products, amount of professional fee, and referrals.

As the welfare of the patient is of utmost priority, an Optometrist shall be allowed to prescribe products or services not offered by the establishment to which he/she is affiliated.

Deleted m-
Section 3. Section 44, Rule VIII of Board Resolution No. 2008-01 is hereby transposed to Rule VII as Section 44, with the following amendments:

Deleted
SEC 44. Office/Clinic- The following rules shall govern the operation of Optometry offices/clinics:

- Deleted*
- a) An Optometrist shall notify the Board of the location of his/her office/clinic, and supply photographs thereof within thirty (30) days from the date of securing the premises (lease contract if not owned) to allow the inspection and monitoring of the same by the Board. If the Optometrist is employed or does not own the place of practice, he/she must likewise inform the Board of this fact. Any change in the location of the clinic or place of practice shall likewise be reported to the Board.
 - b) An office/clinic for the practice of Optometry shall exclusively be used as such. It shall have a professional set-up, to include at the minimum, the requirements listed below:
 - 1. It must be enclosed, definite and apart from space occupied by other commercial or mercantile concerns,
 - 2. It must display the names of its Optometrists and their specializations
 - 3. It must display the valid CORs, updated PICs, Certificates of Good Standing (COGS) and CPD Certificates of Completion of all its Optometrists.
 - c) The office/clinic shall display only such certificates, diplomas and similar documents attesting to the competence and educational qualifications earned by its Optometrists;
 - d) The office/clinic shall have Optometric clinical and practice guidelines such as
 - 1. Comprehensive Adult Eye and Vision Examination,
 - 2. Pediatric Eye and Vision Examination; and
 - 3. Geriatric Eye and Vision Examination,
 - e) An Optometry/Optical clinic shall be manned by a licensed Optometrist during regular operating hours

Deleted
Section 4. The Title of Rule VIII is further amended to read as, "The Code of Professional Clinical Practice Standards"

Section 5. Section 45 is now entitled, "Service Delivery" under Rule VIII, viz:

SEC. 45 – Service Delivery -

- A. An optometric office/clinic open to the public must be equipped to provide the following minimum services

a) School-aged children

1. Patient history
2. Eye examination
 - 2.1 External adnexa and anterior segment of the eye
 - 2.2 Fundus exam (Mydriatic or non-mydriatic)
 - 2.3 Visual acuity
 - 2.4 Color vision
 - 2.5 Refraction (objective, subjective, cycloplegic)
 - 2.6 Visual field (confrontation)
3. Vision examination
 - 3.1 Fixation disparity
 - 3.2 Ocular motility
 - 3.3 Heterophoria
 - 3.4 Accommodative amplitude
 - 3.5 Vergence amplitude
 - 3.6 Accommodative and vergence facility
 - 3.7 Suppression in some cases
 - 3.8 Stereopsis

b) Adult (18 years and above)

1. Patient history
2. Eye examinations
 - 2.1 External adnexa and anterior segment
 - 2.2 Funduscopy
 - 2.3 Visual acuity
 - 2.4 Refraction (objective, subjective)
 - 2.5 Intra-ocular pressure
 - 2.6 Color vision
 - 2.7 Visual field (central and peripheral)
 - 2.8 Others
3. Vision examination
 - 3.1 Fixation disparity
 - 3.2 Ocular motility
 - 3.3 Heterophoria
 - 3.4 Accommodative amplitude
 - 3.5 Vergence amplitude
 - 3.6 Accommodative and vergence facility
 - 3.7 Suppression in some cases
 - 3.8 Stereopsis

c) Adult (60 years and above)

1. Patient history
2. Eye examination
 - 2.1 External adnexa and anterior segment
 - 2.2 Funduscopy
 - 2.3 Visual acuity
 - 2.4 Refraction (objective, subjective)

- 2.5 Intra-ocular pressure
- 2.6 Color vision
- 2.7 Visual field (central and peripheral)

3. Vision examination

- 3.1 Fixation test
- 3.2 Ocular motility
- 3.3 Heterophoria
- 3.4 Accommodative amplitude
- 3.5 Vergence amplitude
- 3.6 Accommodative & vergence facility
- 3.7 Others

B. An Optometric practice must be able to provide the following treatment and management options to their patients:

- a) Spectacle correction (lenses and prisms)
- b) Safety eyewear
- c) Contact lens
- d) Vision training/ basic vision therapy

Section 6. Section 43, Rule VIII of Board Resolution No. 2008-01 is likewise amended and transposed to Rule VIII as Section 46

SEC. 46. Instruments and Equipment - To enable the Optometrist to perform or conduct a comprehensive eye and vision examination and make optometric services available to the public, each office/clinic shall be equipped with the following:

a) Ocular Examination

- 1. Slit-lamp biomicroscope
- 2. Ophthalmoscope
- 3. Retinoscope
- 4. Phoropter
- 5. Trial lens set with accessories
- 6. Visual acuity chart
- 7. Ishihara Pseudoisochromatic plates
- 8. Amsler Grid
- 9. Contrast sensitivity chart
- 10. Tangent screen

b) Binocular vision

- 1. Penlight and occlude
- 2. Prism bar and loose prisms
- 3. Maddox wing
- 4. RAF Rule
- 5. Worth four dot
- 6. Stereo Fly

c) For contact lens examination and assessment

- 1. Keratometer or corneal topographer
- 2. CL trial lenses

d) Optional

1. Schiottz or Goldmann Applanation tonometer
2. Automated Tangent Sreen (ATS)
3. Automated perimeter

Section 7. Further incorporated are new provisions under Rule VIII as follows:

SEC. 47. Physical Facilities

- Handwritten: The subject m*
- a) Space - To enable an Optometrist to render the minimum services efficiently and effectively, his/her clinic or office must provide adequate space to:
1. accommodate the required instruments and equipment;
 2. allow the optometrist to move freely in performing examination and/or treatment procedures; and
 3. ensure patient comfort and convenience before, during and after delivery of optometric services.

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- b) Examination/Treatment Room - This area of the office/clinic shall be dedicated exclusively for examination and/or treatment of patients using the required instruments as specified in Section 46 hereof.

A minimum area of ten (10) square meters (with a test distance of at least 3 meters) shall be allotted for this room/s, and which must be distinctively identifiable from a distance.

The name/s of the Optometrist/s must be posted outside this room to be readily seen or verified by the public.

An Optometrist engaged (or certified) in specialty practice e.g. corneal or contact lens, vision therapy or training, pediatric, behavioral and developmental, sports and low vision practice must provide a special room for this purpose with a clean lavatory for patient's and doctor's use.

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- c) Receiving Area - An area where patients may register and fill out the forms for necessary data and information while waiting for his/her turn must be made available. Only Optometry-related certificates and diplomas may be displayed therein
- d) Product Display Area - Ophthalmic products for sale such as frames, sunglasses, lenses and the like must not be used to highlight or identify an optometric practice. Extra care must be exercised in the design and concept of the optical, clinic or office to protect the public image of Optometrists against any form of commercialization. Sale of products or advertisement for free optometric services must never be used for commercial purposes.
- e) Ophthalmic laboratory - In-house laboratories must occupy a space separate and distinct from the examination and/or treatment room/s. It must be equipped to produce spectacles in accordance with the specifications prescribed by the Optometrist.
- f) Other areas - Locker room, stockroom or pantry, etc. must never be joined with areas where optometrist/s conduct his/her services to promote professionalism and prevent unnecessary distraction in the delivery of optometric services

SEC. 48. Time and Manner of Examination

- a) The amount of chair time used to examine or treat a patient and the manner and choice of methods or procedure shall be the sole discretion of the handling

- b) doctor and shall not be subject to external influence such as, but not limited to, officers, managers, supervisors, staff of the optical or clinic.
- c) The Optometrist shall observe proper decorum and shall wear professional attire while rendering quality eye care services.

SEC. 49. Frontline Offering and Selling - An Optometrist, whether or not engaged as an independent contractor or employed, must not allow himself/herself to be used for frontline offering of products or services of an optical or clinic except in pre-dispensing stage in the selection of frames or sunglasses. The demonstration of prescription products such as spectacle lens or contact lens must be made in the confines of the examination room.

SEC. 50. Quality Improvement Activities - Every Optometry office/clinic shall establish and maintain a system for continuous quality improvement activities. It shall have policies and procedures on Quality Assurance Program (QAP) and continuous quality improvement.

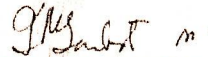
SEC. 51. Information Management - Every Optometric office/clinic shall maintain a system of communication, filing, recording and reporting of results of examination.

- a) A notice of violation shall be issued immediately for non-compliance with these Rules and Regulations.
- b) The Board shall take the appropriate action on such violation.


SEC. 53. Dispensing of Medical Devices - The owner of the optical or clinic shall be responsible for securing the necessary license to operate, distribute, market, dispense or sell medical devices such as contact lenses, their solutions, tear supplements, and prescription lenses in accordance with R. A. No. 9711 and other relevant DOH-FDA regulations. In the course of practice, the Optometrist shall prescribe or dispense only medical devices which are registered and approved for sale by the DOH-FDA.

This Resolution shall take effect after thirty (30) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines. *Provided*, that the implementation of Sections 46 (Instruments and Equipment) and 47 (Physical Facilities) hereof shall only commence after six (6) months following the effectivity of this Resolution.


Issued this 29th day of November 2016 in the City of Manila, Philippines.



TERESITA R. YAMBOT
Chairperson



MARY ROSE S. PAREDES
Member



VIVIAN S. SARABIA
Member



MARIA ELIZABETH B. VALCONCHA
Member



BERNARDITA A. GARCIA
Member

Attested:

Lovelika T. Bautista
LOVELIKA T. BAUTISTA
OIC, Office of the Secretary to the Professional Regulatory Boards

Approved



TEOFILO S. PILANDO, JR.
Chairman

Angelina T. Chua Chiacco
ANGELINE T. CHUA CHIACO
Commissioner

Yolanda D. Reyes
YOLANDA D. REYES
Commissioner

O-CH/O-COMM/O-COMM/PRB-OPTO/D-LID/O-DPRB
TSP/ATCC/YDR/ERI/LTB

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DATE OF EFFECTIVITY 2-9-17