



## Optometric Records - Confidentiality and Third Party Access

### Policy Issue

Optometric records are essential collections of sensitive personal patient information compiled to allow optometrists and other eye health care providers to provide optometric treatment, ensure continuity of care, and maintain optimal standards of care.

### Policy Position

While the optometrist or the optometric practice is the legal custodian of the optometric record, patients have a right to access and obtain a copy of the information contained in their optometric file.

Release of patient information to third parties should adhere to principles of confidentiality and patient rights. Access to optometric records by third parties should be with specific patient consent and direction, or by legal statute or court order.

Optometrists should follow their provincial regulatory authority's policies or guidelines pertaining to optometric records, as well as applicable legislation regarding access rights and confidentiality.

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