

Private and Voluntary Healthcare Consultation

Department of Health

Room 330 Wellington House

133-155 Waterloo Road

London SE1 8UG

E: regulations.and.standards@dh.gsi.gov.uk

5

th June 2008

Private and Voluntary Healthcare: Care Standards Act 2000

Dear Sirs

Thank you for inviting us to respond to this consultation. Together ABDO, AOP, the College and FODO represent the 10,500 optometrists and over 5,000 dispensing opticians and optical businesses who provide high quality and accessible eye care services throughout the UK.

We would like to confine ourselves to answering the questions that are relevant to the eyecare sector.

Question 4.2 Do you think that the proposed addition of refractive surgery to the list of prescribed techniques and technologies is necessary to preserve patient safety?

We support the proposal that all establishments carrying out refractive surgery should be registered as independent hospitals. We feel that this is an important means of ensuring that high standards of safety and care continue to be offered for the protection of patients. Although the surgery itself is minimally invasive, complications arising from refractive surgery can have serious consequences for patients' vision.

We also agree with the empowerment proposals in question 4.4. It is in the interests of providers, as well as their patients, that the services that they provide are safe as well as effective as patient safety incidents are not only bad for patients, but also bad for business. Reminding providers of their responsibilities and giving them flexibility as to how they enforce this is to be encouraged.

If you have any queries please contact:

Dr Susan Blakeney

Optometric Adviser

College of Optometrists

42 Craven Street

London WC2N 5NG

020 7766 4372

optometric.adviser@college-optometrists.org

Yours faithfully

Sir Anthony Garrett Bob Hughes Bryony Pawinska David Hewlett

General Secretary Chief Executive Chief Executive Chief Executive

Association of British Association of College of Optometrists Federation of Ophthalmic

Dispensing Opticians Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians

tgarrett@abdo.org.uk

t: 01227 733916

bobhughes@aop.org.uk

t: 020 7207 2192

Bryony.pawinska@collegeoptometrists.

org

t: 020 7839 6000

david@fodo.com

t: 020 7298 5151