



Association of
Optometrists



2020

Member benefits

Here is a quick overview of some recent member benefits we've introduced, more information is available on our website at www.aop.org.uk/benefits

PROTECTING YOU

- Our legal case studies and *Who's got your back?* short films tell the real stories of members our legal team has assisted
- Our *Making accurate claims* webinars are designed to help members in each of the four UK nations understand GOS claims
- New online guidance on informed consent and the GOC's Business Standards
- New employment law guidance on restrictive covenants (non-compete clauses), managing sickness absence and flexible working

SUPPORTING YOU

- A secure online GOS audit tool for members in England who are currently subject to a GOS claim, or are concerned about possible reclaims in the future
- A student supplement for all freshers starting optometry courses in autumn 2019
- Public information campaigns and resources on eye health, including our #StubItOut smoking cessation campaign
- A new leaflet for members to use when supporting patients with low vision
- New jobs board launching November 2019 on *Optometry Today*

REPRESENTING YOU

- Our #ManifestoForEyecare outlines the key changes we want the NHS, GOC and government to make on behalf of members and patients
- Our responses to the GOC's consultations on patient confidentiality and education reform fight for the profession's interests
- The annual AOP Awards has a new hospital optometrists category to celebrate their contribution to the profession

CORE SERVICES

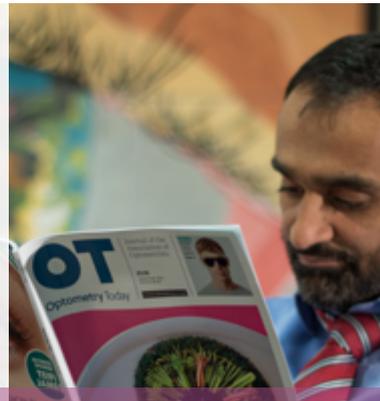
FIRST CLASS INSURANCE AND LEGAL PROTECTION

Our insurance cover and defence is tailor-made for optometrists and dispensing opticians, whether you're self-employed, an employer or a locum. Business owners have vicarious liability cover for the work of the whole practice team where all optometrists are members.



OPTOMETRY TODAY — MONTHLY IN PRINT, DAILY ONLINE

We deliver our award-winning monthly journal *Optometry Today* directly to you in print, as well as online. Plus, we'll keep you informed about optics and eye health through our weekly *OT* newsletter.



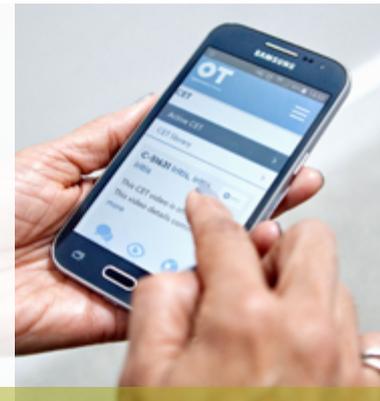
SPECIALIST ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FROM OUR IN-HOUSE TEAMS

Whether you're dealing with a legal issue, have a clinical query or simply want career advice, our in-house team of lawyers, clinical advisers and regulatory professionals offer free and confidential advice whenever you need it.



CET — HELP CONTINUING YOUR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We offer CET online, in print and at our events, so you can gain your points in a way that's most convenient to you. Most of our CET is available to members at no additional cost. In 2019 we offered 451 CET points across our events and online with *OT*.



CORE SERVICES

REPRESENTATION IN THE PROFESSION

We give you the chance to shape the eye health agenda through our Council, our consultation responses and campaigns, and we represent you to government, media and the public.



TAILORED SUPPORT FOR LOCUM MEMBERS

We provide tailored support for locum members, including our locum webinars, our AOP locum logbook, which is designed to help locums keep track of items for which they are potentially responsible, and our locum listing service for advertising your services or searching for a locum.



OPTICAL EVENTS — NATIONAL AND LOCAL

Enjoy access to a range of free or discounted events throughout the year, from national exhibitions, to regional peer discussions, legal seminars and courses.



MEMBERSHIP GRADES TO SUIT YOUR CAREER STAGE

We offer free membership to students and pre-registration optometrists, a reduced rate for newly-qualified optometrists, and a payment freeze for up to 12 months for members taking parental leave.



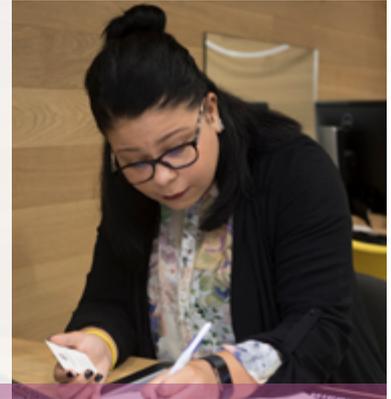
THE AOP PEER SUPPORT LINE

A confidential, free-phone helpline for individuals at any stage of their optical career to call and discuss their problems with a trained, empathetic peer who recognises the pressures of studying, qualifying and optical practice — 0800 870 8401.



GOS AUDIT TOOL

Our secure online tool can help AOP member GOS contractors in England who are currently the subject of a GOS reclaim, or are concerned about possible GOS reclaims in the future.



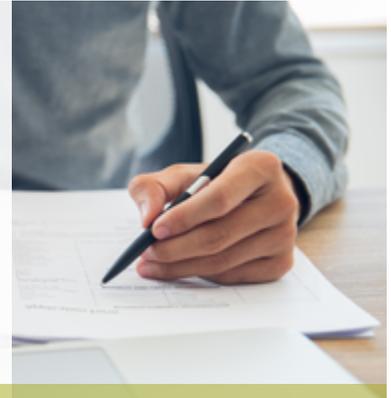
ONLINE COMMUNITY FORUMS

Through our online community forums you're connected to 16,500+ optometry professionals across the UK, giving you the opportunity to network, contribute to discussions or to simply get a second opinion.



HM REVENUE & CUSTOMS INVESTIGATIONS AND DISPUTES COVER

AOP members receive automatic cover through Market Tax in respect of tax investigations and VAT disputes as a right of membership, worth more than £400.



CORE SERVICES AND AFFINITY PARTNER BENEFITS

LEGAL ADVICE LINE FOR NON-OPTOMETRY ISSUES

We offer a free legal advice line 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for all legal enquiries not necessarily related to your work. The advice line can assist you with things like landlord and tenant issues, intellectual property queries, criminal enquiries and a lot more—0345 250 0762



AFFINITY PARTNER BENEFITS

Our carefully chosen partnerships offer members additional benefits, including: personal insurance products and financial planning advice, DBS checks, debt collection services, and help with tax and accountancy services.



WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

Last year our in-house legal and regulatory team advised 1233 members with employment matters, including arranging union representation for 57 members.

Arun (not his real name) was advised and supported by the AOP employment law team after a past employer pressured him to speed up his testing time, and then threatened a capability process.

In a three minute film, Arun explains how he suffered with severe anxiety after a GOC investigation, and how the support he received from the AOP helped him through a difficult time.



I was getting so much pressure at work to not take so long with patients.



Watch Arun's story
www.aop.org.uk/gotyourback



AOP POLICY MANIFESTO



We are proud to launch our new policy manifesto *Fighting for change*

What we are calling for:



The NHS to commission more primary eye care services, connect optical practices to the rest of the healthcare system, and pay a fair rate for sight tests



Better access to eye healthcare for people with learning disabilities, and children



Action against illegal supply of contact lenses and spectacles



Regular vision checks for all drivers

Read our full manifesto to find out more and how you can get involved www.aop.org.uk/manifesto

#ManifestoForEyecare

Promoting the profession,
protecting the professional

www.aop.org.uk/benefits