

## **2023 Updated Regulations Board of Examiners in Optometry**

### **Regulation Update**

Several regulations for the South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry, found in Chapter 40, have been updated and are effective May 26, 2023.

Specifically, these changes are as follows:

- Regulation 95-4, Continuing Education, has been updated to reflect that no more than fifteen (15) of the forty (40) CE hours required for a biennial licensure period can be from online course unless otherwise approved by the Board. It has also been updated to reflect that no more than ten (10) of the fifteen (15) online hours may be courses that are pre-recorded.
- Regulation 95-7, Optometrists' Offices, General Requirements, Patient Records Handling, and Sanitary Standards, has been added to provide general requirements for office facilities and to implement the changes to Section 40-37-320 relating to mobile units. This regulation provides general requirements for all office facilities, which include mobile units, sets forth a list of required diagnostic equipment for all office facilities, and establishes sanitary standards that must be maintained in all office facilities. This regulation also includes additional requirements for handling patient records.
- Regulation 95-8, Ethics, has been added to adopt a code of professional ethics appropriate to the profession of optometry, as authorized by S.C. Code Section 40-37-40(A)(3). This regulation clarifies the duties and obligations of licensed optometrists with regard to patient care and professional education. This regulation also provides that it is unethical for an optometrist to practice while abusing controlled substances, alcohol or other chemical agents which impair the ability to practice, and states that all optometrists have an ethical obligation to urge chemically impaired colleagues to seek treatment.

**Disclaimer: This regulatory update is not intended as legal advice. LLR is providing this update to notify licensees of recently updated regulations that may impact his or her practice area or license. This regulatory update provides only a summary of the updated regulations and licensees are urged to review the updated regulations in their entirety, which are available in the hyperlinks above.**