

Complete Ophthalmic Services CIC: Infection Control Policy and Health Care Associated Infection Reduction Plan

Complete Ophthalmic Services CIC ("the Company") has been established to specifically act as the lead for a network of local optical practices ("subcontractors") dedicated to deliver excellent eye care in the local community.

The Company's stated policy is that all subcontractors must have their own infection control policy in place.

The use of appropriate hygiene procedures and precautions to prevent exposure to and reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases within subcontracting practices is essential. A culture of 'zero tolerance' of avoidable infections is required to achieve sustainable reductions in health care associated infections (HCAI). Strict hygiene must be observed when dealing with patients with particular attention being paid to any equipment with which they come into contact.

Subcontractors of the Company will ensure the following infection control procedures are in place:

- Chin rests and headrests on slit lamps, field screeners, keratometers, tonometers, autorefractors, fundus cameras or any other equipment should be cleaned with a sterile wipe before use by each patient.
- Hand hygiene guidelines should be observed in practices.
- Similarly, the bridge and sides of trial frames and forehead and cheek rests of refractor (phoropter) heads should be cleaned anew for each patient.
- Items coming into contact with a patient's eye must not be reused.
- Disposable tonometer prisms must be used when performing contact tonometry using either a Perkins or Goldmann tonometer, and any permanent tonometer prisms must be removed from the consulting room.
- Alternatively, in accordance with College of Optometrist's guidelines, permanent tonometer prisms may be soaked in 2% sodium hypochlorite (Milton) solution for 60 minutes between uses, although this does not guarantee protection against the transmission of vCJD. Disposable sleeves must be used with Tonopens.
- Liquid antibacterial soap and paper towels must be available at any sink used by staff and patients – fabric towels should not be provided.

- Alcohol hand rub should be available and used between patients.
- Diagnostic solutions such as sterile saline or contact lens soaking solutions must be clearly marked with the date first used. They must always be stored with caps on and not used beyond the recommended dates.
- Single-dose eye drops such as minims must only be used once and then discarded.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that all staff comply with the above instructions.

This policy also acts as the Company's Health Care Associated Infection Reduction Plan.

This infection control policy will be reviewed annually by the Company's Board of Directors with commencement date April 2014.