PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

1960 No. 1936

The General Optical Council (Rules relating to Injury or Disease of the Eye) Order of Council, 1960

Made - - - -	*24th October*, 1960
Laid before Parliament	*27th October*, 1960
Coming into Operation	*1st January*, 1961

At the Council Chamber, Whitehall, the 24th day of October, 1960

By the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council

Whereas in pursuance of subsection (3) of section twenty-five of the Opticians Act, 1958(a), the General Optical Council have made and submitted to the Privy Council rules entitled "The Rules relating to Injury or Disease of the Eye, 1960";

And Whereas by subsection (5) of the said section such rules shall not come into force until approved by Order of the Privy Council:

Now, therefore, Their Lordships, having taken the said rules into consideration, are hereby pleased to approve the same as set out in the Schedule to this Order.

This Order may be cited as the General Optical Council (Rules relating to Injury or Disease of the Eye) Order of Council, 1960, and shall come into operation on the first day of January, 1961.

W. G. Agnew.

SCHEDULE

The Rules relating to Injury or Disease of the Eye, 1960

The General Optical Council do, in exercise of their powers under section 25 (3) of the Opticians Act, 1958, hereby make the following rules:—

1. These rules may be cited as the Rules relating to Injury or Disease of the Eye, 1960.

2.—(*a*) In these rules, "the Act" means the Opticians Act, 1958, and the phrases "registered optician" and "testing sight" have the meaning given them by section 30 of the Act.

(*b*) The Interpretation Act, 1889(b), shall apply for the interpretation of these rules as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

3. Where it appears to a registered optician that a person consulting him is suffering from an injury or disease of the eye the registered optician shall, subject to Rules 5 and 6 below, refer that person to a registered medical practitioner, unless he is acting on the advice or instructions of a registered medical practitioner (other than a medical recommendation for a sight test) in testing the sight of such a person or in fitting and supplying such a person with an optical appliance, but in such case the optician shall forthwith report to that practitioner any findings of injury or disease of the eye of which the practitioner may be unaware.

(a) 6 & 7 Eliz. 2. c. 32. (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

4. In referring a person to a registered medical practitioner, a registered optician shall take the following steps:

(*a*) he shall advise the person to consult such a practitioner, and

(*b*) he shall wherever practicable furnish a registered medical practitioner named by the person with a written report on his findings indicating his grounds for thinking the person may be suffering from injury or disease of the eye, and where action appears urgent he shall also take such measures as are open to him to inform a registered medical practitioner immediately.

5. If a person who appears to a registered optician to be suffering from injury or disease of the eye is unwilling, on conscientious or other grounds, to consult a registered medical practitioner, the optician shall record that fact and the grounds which the person gives for his unwillingness to consult a registered medical practitioner.

6. Nothing in these rules shall operate to prevent a registered optician from rendering in an emergency whatever services are, having regard to the circumstances, in the best interest of a person consulting him, or from giving treatment in accordance with rules made under paragraph (*d*) of sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Act.

7. These rules shall come into operation on the 1st day of January, 1961.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

The rules approved by this Order provide that where it appears to a registered optician that a person consulting him is suffering from an injury or disease of the eye the optician shall, except in certain specified circumstances, take the prescribed steps to refer that person to a registered medical practitioner for advice and treatment.