

INTRODUCTION

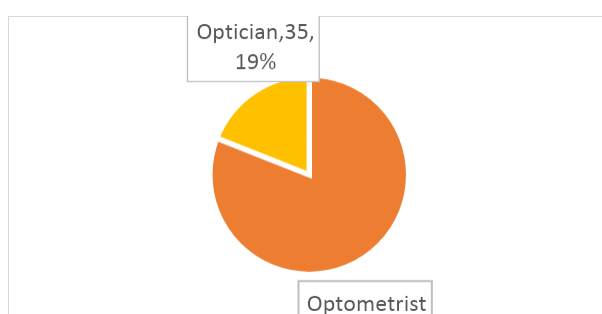
The Malaysian Optical Council (MOC) is responsible in registering optometrists and opticians, monitoring optometry services and practices as well as evaluating and recognizing the Optometry and Opticianry Program conducted by Higher Education Providers (HEPs) in Malaysia. Throughout the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO), the MOC also ensures that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are complied with and made a new norm in each of the optical premises. Guidelines for the practice of optometry in optical premises have been developed and are constantly updated according to current needs.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

REGISTRATION SECTOR AND CERTIFICATE OF ANNUAL PRACTICE (APC) OF OPTOMETRY PRACTITIONERS

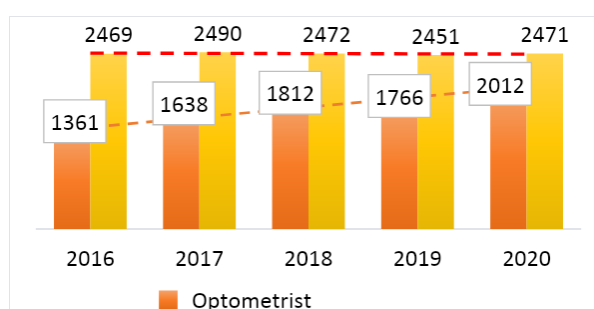
MOC Evaluation Committee is directly responsible in the registration and certification of the practice. A total of four (4) meetings were held which involved the evaluation of the new applications of optometry practitioner for registration. Figure 1 shows the number of optometry practitioners registered with the MOC in 2020. Figure 2 shows the Statistic of APC Renewal starting from 2016 up to 2020. This sector has also come out with a new initiative by organizing MOC Customers Day for the practitioners to renew their APC and obtain the APC on the same day. However, it was done only once in March before the government decided to implement MCO throughout the country.

Figure 1
Total Number of Optometry Practitioners
in 2020



Source: MOC Activities Report 2020, MOC Registration Unit

Figure 2
Statistic of APC Renewal
By Year (2016 - 2020)



Source: MOC Activities Report 2020, MOC APC Unit

RECOGNITION AND ADMINISTRATION SECTOR

There were two (2) meetings held by MOC Recognition Technical Committee (JTC) throughout 2020. A full accreditation evaluation visit and a full accreditation monitoring evaluation visit was done in year 2020. Both sessions involved programs offered by BMIC and Vision College. This sector is also actively sending propos to MQA on the implementation of "Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning for Credit Award" [APEL (C)]. Among the activities carried out were "Portfolio for Recognition of Prior Learning" audit visits, APEL (C) seminars as well as "Challenge test" for APEL (C) Assessment.

ETHICS AND ACTS SECTOR

This sector is responsible on the implementation of the Optometry Bill and, the gazettelement of Optical Act 1991 schedule and the Optical Regulations 1994 amendment. The draft of the Optometry Bill in replace of the current Optical Act 1991, is still under the reviewing process by the Medical Legal Section. The Risk Impact Statement (RIS) for Risk Impact Analysis (RIA) was sent to Malaysian Productivity Corporation (MPC) on 15 September 2020 and still awaiting for reply from MPC.

Apart from that, this sector is also responsible in handling complaints regarding optometry practitioners. There were 37 complaints received in 2020. Among the highest number of complaints were related to the absence of registered practitioners at the optical premises (14 cases) and pre-complaints (13 cases were referred to the relevant agencies). A total of 16 complaints were successfully resolved.

The Optical Surveillance Audit was implemented for the first time in September 2020 involving optical premises in Putrajaya. A total of 19 optical premises involved and 7 warning letters were issued to practitioners who did not renew their APC in 2020. Other than that, monitoring of compliance to Covid-19 SOP was also conducted. Feedbacks for the warning letters issued and corrective measures were received within one month after the audit was conducted.

COMPETENCY SECTOR

The Contact Lens Examination (Theory) for Registered Opticians under the Section 30 (5) of the Optical Act 1991 was conducted on 12 October 2020 in SEGi University, Kota Damansara. A total of 21 registered opticians sat for the examination. Candidates who passed the theory examination, are eligible to sit for the practical examination which will be held in 2021. Each candidate and the secretariat involved complied with the Covid-19 SOP to ensure safety.

All optometry practitioners are advised to register as users in the myCPD system. A year of 2020, 26.5 percent (%) of optometry practitioners have registered, representing a total of 1198 optometrists and 348 opticians. MOC has received 108 CPD applications from CPD providers, in which 18 applications were applied manually and 90 applications were applied through myCPD system. Most of the organizer implemented of the CPD program via *online* aligned with the Covid-19 SOP compliance.

QUALITY OBJECTIVES

Two (2) quality objectives were achieved in 2020:

1. 98 percent (%) of APC was issued within 14 working days upon receiving the completed applications – achievement is 98.1 percent (%).
2. 90 percent (%) of correspondence related to program accreditation that does not involve third parties was issued to MQA within two (2) weeks after the JTC Meeting – achievement is 74 percent (%). This is because the officer in charge on medical leave for two (2) weeks.

CONCLUSION

Overall, there are a few of MOC planned events for 2020 cannot be conducted and postponed to comply with the SOP that were issued during the MCO implementation period.

COORDINATOR & CONTRIBUTOR

COORDINATOR

1. Puan Ilyana Binti Rosli

CONTRIBUTOR

1. Puan Juhaida Binti Zahri
2. Puan Sulastrey Binti Mohamed
3. Puan Najihah Binti Muhamad Sharif
4. Puan Julierozaida Binti Jamaludin