

INTRODUCTION

Malaysian Optical Council (MOC) is responsible for registering optometry practitioners and regulating optometry services and practices in Malaysia. MOC is responsible in evaluating and recognizing Optometry and Opticianry Programs conducted by Higher Education Providers (HEPs) in Malaysia. The practice of optometry has been recognized as an essential service by the Malaysian National Security Council (MKN) during the implementation of the Movement Control Order 2.0 (MCO) due to pandemic Covid-19. In line with that, MOC also involved in the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the optometry practices under the health sector. The SOPs are constantly updated according to current situation of the nation.

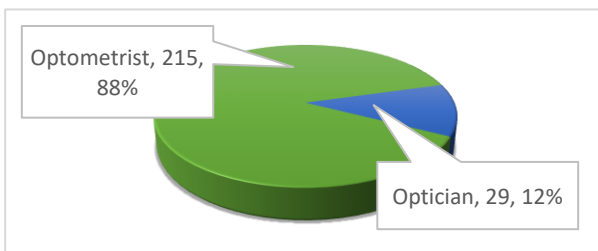
ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

REGISTRATION SECTOR AND ANNUAL PRACTICING CERTIFICATE (APC) FOR OPTOMETRY PRACTITIONERS

MOC Evaluation Committee is responsible in the registration of new practitioners and issuance of annual practicing certificate (APC) for registered practitioners. A total of five (5) meetings were held involving evaluation of applications for registration. Figure 1 shows the number of optometry practitioners registered with the MOC in 2021. Figure 2 shows the Statistic of APC Renewal from 2017 to 2021. MOC Meeting bil. 1/2021 has agree to conduct PQA for optician, in order to register opticianry diploma graduate who qualification is not listed in the First Schedule of the Optical Act 1991. The PQA will be conducted by Pertubuhan Akademi Optometri Malaysia (PAOM).

Figure 1

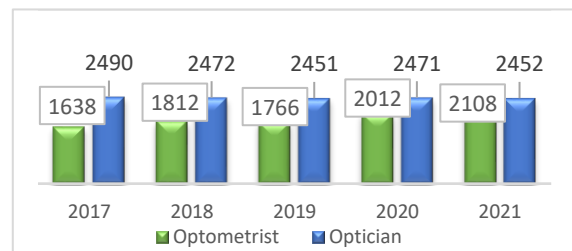
Total Number of Optometry Practitioners in 2021



Source: MOC Activities Report 2021, MOC Registration Unit

Figure 2

Statistic of APC Renewal By Year (2017 - 2021)



Source: MOC Activities Report 2021, MOC APC Unit

ACCREDITATION AND ADMINISTRATION SECTOR

The MOC Joint Technical Committee (JTC) meeting was held two (2) times during 2021. Audit for program monitoring evaluation during 2021 has been carried out virtually (MQAVA) using Zoom platform managed by MQA. Due to pandemic Covid-19, only one (1) full accreditation monitoring evaluation of program conducted in year 2021. Accreditation sector has successfully developed standard program documents and guidelines for the accreditation of optometry/optician programs 2.0 based on COPPA 2.0 and MQF 2.0. MOC has acquire approval from MQA as the center for "Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning for Credit Award" [APEL (C)] to Registered Opticians for admission to the Optometry (Accelerated) program. APEL (C) effective date started from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2026. A preliminary briefing for the pre-evaluation of APEL (C) to 22 candidates was held on 5 October 2021.

ETHICS AND ACTS SECTOR

This sector is responsible in drafting the Optometry Bill and amendments of the Optical Act 1991 and the Optical Regulations 1994. The draft of Optometry Bill is still under revision by the Medical

Legislation Department. The Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) has been forwarded to the Malaysian Productivity Corporation (MPC) for second revision.

A total of 22 complaints were received during 2021. The highest number of complaints (10 cases) were related to the absence of optometrist or optician with license to prescribe and dispense contact lens at the optical premises. There are also cases involving online sales of optical appliances. Therefore, a guideline has been issued and distributed to all agencies involved. A total of 8 complained cases have been resolved. Three (3) guidelines has been issued to ensure all optometry practices comply with current Acts and codes of practice:

1. Guidelines for the Sale of Optical Devices and Contact Lenses Online
2. Optometry Community Services Guidelines (Organized by Non -Governmental Organizations [NGOs] and Private Optometry Practitioners)
3. Guidelines for Mobile Optometry Service

Optical Surveillance Audit scheduled for year 2021 has been postponed next year in adherence to MCO and SOPs impose by MKN. Optical premises were not permitted to operate in early phase of MCO. Subsequently, under National Recovery Plan (NRP) optometry services has been categorized as essential service in Health Sector allowing optometry premises to be operated conforming to the SOPs provided. The sector is also responsible in preparing and revising the SOPs.

COMPETENCY SECTOR

The Contact Lens Examination (Theory and Practical) for Registered Opticians under Section 30 (5) of the Optical Act 1991 scheduled for year 2021 has been postponed to 2022 to comply with the SOPs set by MKN and MOH.

All optometry practitioners are advised to register in myCPD system. Optometry practitioners who registered in myCPD system has increase to 44.1 percent (%) representing 1647 from private sector and 364 from public sector. A total of 137 applications for CPD points were received from the CPD program provider, 8 applications was made manually and 129 applications made through the system. Most of the CPD program was conducted online.

OBJECTIVE QUALITY

Two (2) objective qualities have been set and achieved for year 2021 as follows:

1. 98 percent (%) APC is issued within 14 working days from the date of application complete - 100 percent achievement (%).
2. 90 percent (%) of letter related to program accreditation without third parties involvement is issued to MQA within two (2) weeks after the JTC Meeting - 100 percent achievement (%).

CONCLUSION

Generally, there are a few scheduled programs for the year 2021 was unable to conduct and has been postponed in compliance with the SOPs set by the MKN and MOH.

COORDINATOR & CONTRIBUTOR

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