

----- Original Message -----

From: [brent caswell](#)
To: info@ontario-opticians.com
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2004 12:20 AM
Subject: Bulletin Board

Hello,

Can you please place this response in your "Bulletin Board" section of your website.

After reading letters written by Geoffrey Briede I am alarmed to hear of his misconceptions of optometrists. Mr. Briede questions the knowledge of optometrists and refers to them as technicians. He declares that going to see a family physician or an emergency room physician would be in patients best interest when it comes to vision care.

In reality an optometrist should be the first stop for vision care. In my city (outside of Ontario) the family doctors and ER physicians will be the first to agree with this also. My office leaves 5 appointments open/day to accomodate the referrals from our local physicians (and yes there is an ophthalmologist available). Physicians (most) do not have the appropriate equipment to properly diagnose the majority of ocular pathology. The ophthalmologist in my city actually puts on a seminar every year for all the physicians to educate them on appropriate vision care. His take home message at every seminar is to refer to optometrists (not him) if they are unsure of a diagnosis. Ophthalmologists (for the most part) are trained to (and want to) do surgeries and are happy for primary vision care to be handled by optometrists.

I am unclear on how Mr. Briede feels about dentists? If I follow his analogies, physicians would be the ones who should be the publics first choice for dental work. I think I will personally stick with my dentist--no he/she is not able to practice medicine either but I trust their expertise and education. I have the utmost respect for physicians but they have their place in the health field as do optometrists/dentists/chiropractors etc.

I know most opticians do not have such a derogatory view of optometrists as Mr. Briede does. I have 2 licensed opticians and 1 licensed optician/contact lens fitter employed at my office and I owe most of the success of my office to them. They are highly trained in their field and are highly respected in our community. They see first hand the importance of optometry's role as primary vision care providers.

In closing after reading Mr. Briede's letters, it is obvious that he is well spoken and articulate and does make several good points. I am not out to belittle him I just want to give some facts. Thank you for giving me the forum to do that.

Respectfully yours,

Brent Caswell Bsc, OD.