



Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) response to the General Optical Council's consultation on Supplementary Guidance on the Duty of Candour

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Royal College of Ophthalmologists welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation.
- 1.2 The Royal College of Ophthalmologists is the professional body for ophthalmologists and we champion excellence in the practice of ophthalmology on behalf of our members to optimise care for patients. We set the curriculum and examinations for trainee ophthalmologists, provide training in eye surgery, maintain standards in the practice of ophthalmology, and promote research and advance science in the specialty.
- 1.3 We work with leaders across the eye health sector to help shape eye services for the benefit of patients.

2. Our response

- 2.1 Overall, we support the GOC's approach to providing supplementary guidance on candour to support registrants in meeting their obligations. The guidance as drafted is clear and helpful.
- 2.2 We welcome the section on encouraging a learning culture by reporting near misses. This is a positive and important message to embed across the eye care sector. Registrants can work with many different eye care professionals, across a range of primary and secondary care settings, maintaining candour with all colleagues may be challenging and explicit reference in the guidance may support this. We would welcome greater emphasis within the guidance on the importance of maintaining candour with colleagues.