

24 April 2018



**To Heads of School, Training Programme Directors,  
Regional Education Advisors, College Tutors, Educational Supervisors and all  
Ophthalmologists in Training**

**Re: Continuous cataract complications audit**

The development of the new e-Portfolio in 2016 presented an opportunity to build an online Educational Supervisor Report and for this to include all the evidence uploaded during the year of training.

The consequence of this has been to highlight the curriculum requirement for trainees to maintain a continuous audit of cataract complications from the beginning of their training. In fact, this has been a requirement since our current curriculum was approved by the GMC in 2010. However, we recognise that previously this has not necessarily been reviewed in detail at ARCP in all regions.

Many trainees and trainers have asked the College to provide a template for the audit and, in response to this, the Quality of Assessment Committee have agreed a template, which is designed to provide guidance on the data that should be collected for this audit. It is not mandatory, and trainees are free to use a format of their own design, though ensuring they follow the principles behind the curriculum requirement.

The audit should demonstrate that the trainee has followed up and is aware of the outcomes of surgery where there has been a significant complication. There is no requirement to document specific details that could identify a patient or to date the event precisely – our template concentrates on reflection and learning from the event. In light of recent events surrounding a much-publicised legal case, concerns have been raised about the recording of reflections. The GMC has reinforced the importance of evidence learning from problems and for doctors to demonstrate that they are reflective practitioners. They have indicated that they would look positively on doctors evidencing such reflective learning.

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The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and COPMeD have produced Joint Guidance on Reflective Practice, which can be consulted here:

[Academy Guidance on e-portfolios - Reflective Practice \(October 2016\)](#)

[Interim Guidance on Reflective Practice \(March 2018\)](#)

It is hoped that our template will assist trainees and trainers in fulfilling the requirements of the curriculum learning outcome SS4 – Cataract Surgery.

It would be expected that trainees would be able to include all surgical complications with outcomes since August 2014, as it should be possible to access this data. Before that, if reflections are not possible or available for all cases – and outcomes are difficult to access – then it is acceptable for the audit to have incomplete data on all complications noted in the Eye Logbook.

Heads of School and Training Programme Directors may use their discretion in approving the audit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F'.

**Miss Fiona Spencer FRCS (Glas) FRCOphth**  
*Chair – Training Committee*