



The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

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Postgraduate Medical Training

# Patient Safety and Quality Improvement syllabus

OST Curriculum domain

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*The Royal College of Ophthalmologists is a registered charity in England and Wales (299872) and in Scotland (SC045652)*

Level 1	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Know the principles, recognise the contribution to improved practice, and take part in clinical governance, audit and quality improvement activities.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Define clinical governance, quality improvement, audit, and service evaluation.</li> <li>▪ Understand how to respond to situations where clinical governance procedures identify a quality below the expected standard.</li> <li>▪ Engage with Incident Reporting systems at a local level, including procedures for Serious Untoward Incidents (SUIs) and Never Events.</li> <li>▪ Assist with running audits, including presenting the findings and planning change.</li> <li>▪ Recognise when “whistle-blowing” might be necessary, and the appropriate methods of escalating such concerns.</li> </ul>
<b>Identify appropriate information from a variety of data sources.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct literature searches and reviews</li> <li>▪ Engage with stakeholders, including patients, doctors, and managers.</li> <li>▪ Review the resources available for patients with common eye conditions and direct patients to reliable sources of information, on- and off-line.</li> <li>▪ Understand the factors that can influence information, including (but not limited to) funding sources, political alignment, and author intent or interest.</li> </ul>

Level 2	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Apply clear and appropriate clinical reasoning to make safe decisions.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use a logical thought process in their clinical reasoning, to ensure safe decisions and will be able to justify their conclusions.</li> </ul>
<b>Practise in line with latest evidence.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of Good Medical Practice.</li> <li>▪ Continually review medical and grey literature adopting changes to guidelines and evaluating the need to adopt emerging treatments and techniques with an appropriate evidence base.</li> </ul>
<b>Maintain appropriate audits of practice.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain a continuous audit of cataract surgery, using the RCOphth online electronic logbook.</li> <li>▪ Review and reflect on all cases where complications occur.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Undertake and audit of at least 50 consecutive cataract operations where the surgery is performed within three calendar years of the CCT date.</li> <li>▪ Consider other areas of practice with defined standards, both surgical and non-surgical, and ensure personal audits are conducted.</li> </ul>
<b>Apply quality improvement methods.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understand the different methods of quality improvement and when they are most effectively employed.</li> <li>▪ Select an appropriate quality improvement technique for all projects undertaken, and justify the selection.</li> </ul>

### Level 3

Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Design and implement quality improvement programmes to improve clinical effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review services to improve patient experience.</li> <li>▪ Understand the basic principles of health commissioning, funding and management at a departmental, hospital, community and national level.</li> </ul>
<b>Analyse and critique published research.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engage in Journal Club activities, presenting a mixture of emerging and historical landmark papers.</li> <li>▪ Develop critical appraisal techniques, following a logical process, particularly evaluating the effects of funding sources on evidence presented.</li> </ul>

### Level 4

Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Share improved practice with others and be able to defend changes made.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Present findings from quality improvement projects at appropriate departmental, regional, national or international level.</li> <li>▪ Invite discussion around quality improvement techniques and data analysis, accepting improvement or correction where appropriate.</li> <li>▪ Co-develop/refine local guidelines and protocols, e.g. standard operating procedures (SOPs), patient pathways.</li> </ul>

<b>Critically evaluate own skills in quality improvement.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Use the framework of Good Medical Practice to reflect on their own practice and prepare for appraisal.</li><li>▪ Consider how their own skills may be developed to deliver more effective quality improvement projects.</li></ul>
<b>Promote clinical governance and quality improvement in the wider organisation.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Understand the reasons for appraisal and revalidation.</li><li>▪ Appraise other staff and provide constructive feedback.</li><li>▪ Support and develop other individuals, ensuring a team approach.</li><li>▪ Encourage a team approach to patient safety, acting as a patient advocate.</li><li>▪ Engage in incident and good practice reporting across the organisation, understanding the methods for creating change.</li></ul>

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