



The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

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Postgraduate Medical Training

# Safeguarding and Holistic Patient Care 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>Understand and promote professional responsibility of safeguarding.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Take responsibility for the safeguarding of children and other vulnerable patients.</li> <li>▪ Ensure familiarity with local safeguarding procedures and contacts.</li> <li>▪ Request chaperones where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Demonstrate familiarity with local safeguarding procedures and contacts.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Always ensure to be up to date with safeguarding training.</li> <li>▪ Know the local referral pathways for patients who are at risk, both during working hours and out of hours.</li> </ul>
<b>Demonstrate awareness of possibility of non-accidental injury in vulnerable patients.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Know the features, which would raise concern of non-accidental injury.</li> <li>▪ Understand the different forms of abuse and how to recognise these in the clinical setting.</li> </ul>
<b>Document safeguarding concerns accurately and refers to senior staff.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Document all findings, including relevant negatives, clearly and legibly in accordance with GMC guidelines.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate familiarity with the effects of decreased vision, including advice regarding driving standards.</li> <li>▪ Know and be able to interpret the applicable standards for driving, including visual standards and TIA / Stroke guidelines.</li> <li>▪ Advise patients on the visual standards for driving, being aware of the different classes of licence.</li> <li>▪ Show empathy and consideration when advising patients regarding occupational or DVLA visual standards, and be aware of the effect that decreased vision can have on careers and lifestyle.</li> <li>▪ Recognise when a patient might benefit from a low vision aid assessment or other rehabilitation services or support groups for visual impairment.</li> <li>▪ Know when to refer patients to the Eye Clinic Liaison Officers and advise patients of the support that they can provide.</li> <li>▪ Recognise problems with, and arrange appropriate modifications to, the clinical environment.</li> <li>▪ Understand the effect that treatment, e.g. PRP, can have on a patient's vision and the</li> </ul>

consequences that this can have on their lifestyle, e.g. ability to drive or work.

## Level 2

### Learning Outcome

### Descriptors

*An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:*

**Recognise where specialised management techniques may be necessary for those with special needs.**

- Understand the limitations of clinical tests and assessment, especially in patients with additional needs.
- Understand the legal requirements for consent, particularly in those with additional needs, or under the age of 16 years, including the ability of others to consent or refuse consent on behalf of a patient.
- Recognise other factors that will affect a patient's decision-making process.
- Recognise the effect that treatment will have on patients and be sensitive when patients' views and choices differ from one's own.
- Support patients in decision making and considering their personal context including effects on the patient, relationships, and integration in society. Allow patients to freely question and discuss their management whilst reassuring them that such discussions will not compromise their care.
- Understand and apply knowledge of medical sociology to ophthalmic practice.
- Understand the effects of lifestyle on a patient's ophthalmic conditions.
- Be aware of the effects of diet and nutrition on ophthalmic diagnoses and understand how to provide support to patients who may find it difficult to afford or access adequate nutrition or dietary supplements.
- Understand and apply the criteria for the certificate of visual impairment.
- Consider the benefits, and any possible disadvantages, to registration as sight impaired, and be able to advise patients in a sensitive manner regarding the process.
- Understand the options for additional support for patients who may be unable to meet visual standards for driving, occupation or other requirements, due to additional needs.

Level 3	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Take responsibility for safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, referring and taking appropriate action.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the ophthalmologist's role in patients where there is a concern regarding abusive head trauma.</li> <li>Apply the RCOphth guidelines and proforma to situations where abusive head trauma is a concern.</li> <li>Ensure timely review and multi-disciplinary input where a concern regarding non-accidental injury is raised.</li> <li>Know how to check risk registers for patients, and how to initiate a cause for concern for at risk children and vulnerable adults.</li> </ul>
<b>Apply mental capacity legislation in clinical practice.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply the Mental Capacity Act legislation appropriately to patients in a general clinic.</li> <li>Ensure that consent is obtained appropriately depending upon the patient's mental capacity, using supplementary input where required, including understanding when and how to access an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA).</li> </ul>

Level 4	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Critically evaluate personal and wider organisational responses to safeguarding issues.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively engage with the development and maintenance of local pathways for vulnerable patients.</li> </ul>
<b>Supervise and support other professionals with regard to safeguarding.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide training for junior and allied health professionals to ensure that safeguarding concerns are raised in a timely and appropriate fashion.</li> </ul>
<b>Demonstrate effective specialised management techniques for those with special needs.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that procedures are in place to prevent discrimination or exclusion for patients with additional needs, including those with language barriers.</li> <li>Provide specialised clinical input for patients who need occupational health and/or DVLA assessment, considering the patient's and society's needs within any encounter.</li> <li>Advise patients regarding, and liaise with, organisations providing support to patients with visual impairment.</li> </ul>

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