



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

## Level 3 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

DRAFT

## Community Ophthalmology (xii)

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Level 3	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Understand the provision of community ophthalmology and screening programmes.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Be aware of the local arrangements for reviewing current and future eye health issues facing the local population [e.g. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)] and the process leading to agreed priorities to improve health and reduce inequalities.</li><li>▪ Demonstrate the ability to analyse current hospital eye service pathways and identify areas that are suitable for transfer into the community.</li><li>▪ Evaluate community pathways for general, glaucoma, cataract and other special interest area patients that may be managed in the community.</li><li>▪ Maintain an updated knowledge of relevant national and local guidelines, protocols and policies in terms of their relevance and impact on community ophthalmology, e.g. NICE, SIGN, RCOphth guidance on disease screening and surveillance, risk stratification.</li><li>▪ Identify new systems for sharing information with referrers and patients, or improve existing systems for integration within the local setting.</li><li>▪ Be able to apply principles of GIRFT and other service improvement methodologies to improve the flow of patients through the eye health care services.</li><li>▪ Be aware of inconsistency, duplication and unwarranted variations in service provision and outcomes.</li><li>▪ Be aware of limitations of local system integration, e.g. financial flows, workforce issues, perverse incentives, competing priorities, local politics.</li><li>▪ Implement changes to pathways to improve patient experience, patient care and economy of systems.</li> <li>▪ Understand common community screening programmes and local interpretations of these programmes.</li></ul>

- Be aware of Wilson-Jungner criteria for screening programmes and understand how these have impacted UK strategies, e.g. in glaucoma and diabetic eye disease.
- Understand public health initiatives for paediatric eye health including, baby checks and school sight tests.

**Understand the epidemiology of eye disease and visual impairment and public health approaches to blindness prevention.**

- Understand the role of epidemiology on eye care service design, resource allocation and the England Vision Strategy.
- Be aware of national and international data and reports on prevalence of blindness and vision impairment.
- Be aware of datasets relevant to eye health, e.g. diabetic screening uptake, local and national JSNA dataset.
- Understand the health economic impact of vision loss or vision impairment and the cost effectiveness of prevention and treatment.
- Understand how evidence is generated, and applied, to drive interventions to reduce the burden and impact of disease.
- Evaluate the relative benefits of different research study designs to inform ophthalmic research on distribution and determinants of eye disease within the population.
- Understand the evidence-based public health approach for the control and management of eye diseases that impair vision or cause blindness, e.g. prevention, screening.

**Understand the role of commissioning in eye health care.**

- Be aware of relevant Community Ophthalmology Services commissioning frameworks.
- Understand the Clinical Council for Eye Health Commissioning guidance and its implications for local service delivery.
- Understand the importance of integration of community optometry services with Hospital Eye Service (HES) and other providers of eye care.
- Understand the social, financial and environmental impact of health care delivered in the community and HES.