



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

Level 3 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

DRAFT

Neuro-ophthalmology (ix)

Level 3	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
Independently assess and manage moderate complexity patients, demonstrating an understanding of neuro-ophthalmology procedures selecting the most appropriate treatment according to current accepted practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Understand and apply knowledge of medicine and surgery relevant to neuro-ophthalmology practice, to make diagnoses and recommend a management plan.▪ Be informed by the patient's unique medical, psychological and social circumstances.▪ Understand the tests and imaging techniques that might be helpful in deciding about and guiding treatment, including the indications and limitations of the tests and the interpretation of the results.▪ Recognise all urgent neuro-ophthalmology conditions and carry out initial investigation and management.▪ Know when to refer to neuro-ophthalmology/ neurology/ medical colleagues for further opinion/ management.▪ Use with accuracy and efficiency instruments and tests available to assess the patient, including colour vision testing suitable for the cause of colour vision loss.▪ Be familiar with imaging protocols e.g. for acute Horner's syndrome. ▪ Implement a detailed management plan to include care from triage to discharge from care.▪ Acknowledge and follow relevant guidelines or protocols.▪ Practise in line with the latest evidence.▪ Understand the indications, risks and limitations of medical and surgical treatments and identify patients for whom these treatments would be appropriate.▪ Involve the patient, and where appropriate, their carer, partner or relatives, in the choices about their care and enable them to express their informed consent.▪ Share decision-making by providing patients with appropriate and comprehensible information, prioritising the patient's wishes and respecting the patient's beliefs, concerns and expectations.▪ Communicate the uncertainty of options in a manner that patients will understand.

- Manage difficult or challenging conversations.
- Develop situational awareness and an understanding of the impact of cultural and social issues.
- Enable patient self-management where possible.
- Understand and apply knowledge of clinical genetics relevant to neuro-ophthalmology conditions.
- Advise patients about patterns of inheritance and recognise when it is appropriate to refer a patient for genetic counselling.
- Recognise when it is important to offer a consultation with family members.
- Recognise when a patient has had or is developing a complication or side effect from treatment and be able to manage this in an appropriate and timely manner.
- Maintain an understanding of new developments in relevant technologies.
- Choose appropriate visual field perimeters, strategies and algorithms for neurological assessment.

Risk assess and prioritise patients appropriately, recognising the need for special interest input.

- Manage patient referrals efficiently, according appropriate priority to referrals based on clinical need and in accordance with local and national guidelines.
- Refer to more experienced clinicians when appropriate.
- Manage acute presentations following local guidance.
- Know the conditions that warrant an urgent onward referral to other healthcare professionals, and be aware of the local policies and systems for making such referrals.
- Manage surgical waiting lists and other access to clinical services appropriately, intervening when clinical care for a patient is put at risk by inappropriate waiting list management.

Independently perform low complexity neuro-ophthalmology procedures.

- Perform botulinum toxin therapy. Be familiar with the neuro-ophthalmic indications, including the principles and side effects of treatment and know the doses used for different indications.
- Develop new skills in a supervised simulated environment.