



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

Level 4 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

DRAFT

Cataract Surgery (iii)

Level 4

Learning Outcome

Descriptors

An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:

Demonstrate advanced clinical management and surgical skills.

- Demonstrate competency in advanced clinical diagnosis, investigation and management of cataract in outpatients, inpatients and emergency settings.
- Perform cataract surgery independently, including, but not limited to:
 - high myopes
 - high astigmatic error
 - those with previous anterior or posterior segment surgery
 - previous iritis
 - unusually hard or soft cataracts
 - white cataracts
 - small pupils
 - pseudoexfoliation syndrome
 - subluxated lenses and post-trauma
- Demonstrate ability to use monofocal, toric, sulcus and anterior chamber lenses.
- Demonstrate ability to manage problems including, but not limited to:
 - anterior and posterior capsule tears
 - iris complications
 - IOL misplacement or replacement
 - wound complications
- Manage anterior vitreous loss and anterior vitrectomy; placement of the secondary intraocular lens (IOL) into the sulcus.
- Identify and manage suprachoroidal haemorrhage.
- Perform an indicative minimum number of 350 complete cataract procedures during training.
- Use simulated environments to enhance practical skills for complex cases.

- Perform a whole list of cataract operations and take responsibility for the efficient management of the session.
- Understand the limitations of biometry, and manage cases accordingly, e.g. following corneal disease and surgery (including refractive surgery).
- By the end of training, undertake a prospective audit of 50 consecutive cataract cases against national standards, where the surgery is performed within 3 calendar years of the CCT date. Post-operative refractive data must be provided on at least a sample of these cases.
- Maintain a record of activities, using the RCOphth electronic logbook.

Manage the complexity and uncertainty of cataract surgery cases.

- Understand and apply advanced knowledge of cataract and refractive conditions and practice.
- Independently lead and manage cataract clinics.
- Investigate, diagnose, and manage post-operative complications such as:
 - Endophthalmitis
 - refractive surprise
 - cystoid macular oedema
 - corneal decompensation
- Co-manage patients with anterior or posterior segment subspecialists, where appropriate.
- Apply knowledge and skills in a flexible manner.
- Utilise existing skills to novel situations.
- Adapt management strategies to take account of patients' informed preferences, particular circumstances, age and co-morbidities, respecting patient autonomy.
- Manage the uncertainty of treatment success or failure and communicate effectively with patients where there is uncertainty.
- Manage the personal challenge of coping with uncertainty.
- Evaluate published developments in cataract and refractive knowledge and practice and modify own practice appropriately.

Apply management and team working skills appropriately, including in complex, dynamic situations.

- Use highly developed consultation skills efficiently to manage busy clinics whilst managing patient expectations.
- Assist with decision-making where there are cognitive impairment barriers, employing Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) services or equivalent if necessary.

- Understand how culture or religious beliefs can affect patients' decision making and needs, and communicate these effectively to the team.
- Be sensitive to social situations and the impact these may be having on the patient, their carers and their disease.
- Understand when information must be shared more widely with schools, carers, police, etc. and understand the responsibilities and implications of sharing information.
- Receive and respond to communications in complex or challenging situations.
- Liaise and support colleagues from other subspecialties to optimise patient care, when co-management is required.
- Promote professional values within the team.
- Work as a collaborative member of a team, respecting differences of opinion.
- Accept constructive and appropriately framed criticism.
- Support colleagues.
- Be an advocate for patients.
- Manage significant events and complaints, including writing formal reports.
- Understand and follow local policies in response to complaints.

Be an effective supervisor, teacher and trainer of cataract surgery.

- Participate in education/training of medical students/junior trainees, and allied health professionals in cataract surgery.
- Supervises and accredits trainees to Level 3 in cataract surgery.

The indicative time for training at this level is **12 months** of full time equivalent, which should be integrated longitudinally across the entire training programme.