



The **ROYAL COLLEGE** *of*
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

OST Curriculum 2024

Level 4 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

Glaucoma (iv)

Level 4

Learning Outcome

Descriptors

An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:

Demonstrate advanced clinical management and surgical skills.

- Demonstrate competency in diagnosis, investigation and management of glaucoma cases in outpatients, inpatients and emergency settings.
- Have skills in cataract surgery to Level 4.
- Have advanced cataract surgery skills to manage cataract surgery in the setting of glaucoma co-pathology.
- Understand and utilise available instrument technology relevant to glaucoma, e.g. optical coherence tomography (OCT), ultrasound biomicroscopy (UBM).
- Perform glaucoma surgery independently including, but not limited to:
 - trabeculectomy with antimetabolites or non-penetrating glaucoma surgery
 - cyclodestructive procedures
- Understand other glaucoma drainage procedures, including microinvasive techniques and drainage tubes.
- Advise on or perform advanced glaucoma procedures to manage non-responsive acute angle closure glaucoma such as iridoplasty and diode laser.
- Demonstrate skills to manage the complications of glaucoma and cataract surgery including but not exclusively:
 - Hypotony
 - Infection
 - Inflammation
 - aqueous misdirection
 - failing or leaking blebs
 - choroidal detachments
 - haemorrhage

	▪ Undertake prospective audit of specialist surgical outcomes in glaucoma drainage procedures against national and/or published standards. ▪ Maintain a record of activities, using the RCOphth electronic logbook.
Manage the complexity and uncertainty of glaucoma cases.	▪ Understand and apply advanced knowledge of glaucoma diseases and practice. ▪ Independently manage glaucoma clinics and theatre lists. ▪ Diagnose and manage complex glaucomatous conditions and masquerade presentations including, but not limited to, secondary glaucoma and optic neuropathy. ▪ Manage and operate on patients whose previous glaucoma surgery has failed. ▪ Apply knowledge and skills in a flexible manner. ▪ Utilise existing skills to novel situations. ▪ Adapt management strategies to take account of patient's 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 glaucoma knowledge and practice and modify own practice appropriately. ▪ Recognise and refer patients who will benefit from more specialist input.
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. ▪ Supervise different models of delivery of glaucoma care, including but not limited to virtual clinic and supervision of allied professionals.

	▪ Give specialist advice to non-glaucoma specialists. ▪ Liaise and support colleagues from other special interest areas 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 glaucoma conditions.	▪ Participate in education/training of medical students/junior trainees, and allied health professionals in glaucoma. ▪ Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to Level 3 in glaucoma. This includes supervising simple glaucoma procedures and surgery to Level 3. ▪ Supervise and provide objective assessment of other surgical competency at Level 3 (e.g. WpBA such as DOPS or OSATS). ▪ Supervise allied professionals in the delivery of glaucoma care under guidance of local governance policies.

The indicative time for training at this level is **up to 18 months** of full-time equivalent.