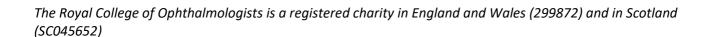


**OST Curriculum 2024** 

# **Level 4 Learning Outcomes and descriptors**

**Patient Management Domain** 



### **Medical Retina (vi)**

#### Level 4

#### **Learning Outcome**

#### **Descriptors**

An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:

## Demonstrate advanced clinical management and practical skills.

- Demonstrate competency in advanced clinical diagnosis, investigation and management of medical retinal diseases in outpatients, inpatients and emergency settings.
- Advise on patients undergoing cataract surgery with coexisting medical retinal disease, including:
  - o diabetic macular oedema (DMO)
  - o proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR)
  - wet age-related macular degeneration (ARMD)
  - o genetic eye disease
- Apply advanced understanding of modern diagnostic techniques (e.g. multimodal imaging), including:
- optical coherence tomography (OCT)
- OCT angiography
- fundus autofluorescence
- microperimetry
- the importance and indications for fluorescein or indocyanine green angiography and electrodiagnostic testing (EDT) in selected cases
- Be competent in deciding when to undertake genetic testing and understand genetic testing results and potential uncertainty in the findings:
  - o Demonstrate an understanding of patterns of inheritance
  - o Demonstrate an understanding of genetic lab reports and ways to deliver results to patients
  - o Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the multidisciplinary team in interpreting significant and insignificant variants
- Perform ultrasound scans in complex patients differentiating between structures and identifying tissue mobility.

	<ul> <li>Competently employ available intra-vitreal therapies including anti vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and steroids.</li> <li>Demonstrate advanced laser skills, including the application of indirect laser for panretinal photocoagulation (PRP) and sub-threshold laser.</li> <li>Understand indications, principles and technique for photodynamic therapy.</li> <li>Undertake prospective audit of specialist outcomes in medical retinal disease, against national standards.</li> <li>Maintain a record of activities, using the RCOphth electronic logbook.</li> </ul>
Manage the complexity and uncertainty of medical retina disease cases.	<ul> <li>Understand and apply advanced knowledge of medical retinal conditions and practice.</li> <li>Independently manage medical retinal disease clinics.</li> <li>Diagnose and manage complex medical retina conditions.</li> <li>Apply knowledge and skills in a flexible manner.</li> <li>Utilise existing skills to novel situations.</li> <li>Adapt management strategies to take account of patient's informed preferences, particular circumstances, age and co-morbidities, respecting patient autonomy.</li> <li>Manage the uncertainty of treatment success or failure and communicate effectively with patients were there is uncertainty.</li> <li>Manage the personal challenge of coping with uncertainty.</li> <li>Evaluate published developments in vitreoretinal knowledge and practice and modify own practice appropriately.</li> <li>Recognise and refer patients who will benefit from more specialist input.</li> </ul>
Apply management and team working skills appropriately, including in complex, dynamic situations.	<ul> <li>Use highly developed consultation skills efficiently to manage busy clinics whilst managing patient expectations.</li> <li>Assist with decision-making where there are cognitive impairment barriers, employing Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) services or equivalent if necessary.</li> <li>Understand how culture or religious beliefs can affect patients' decision-making and needs, and communicate these effectively to the team.</li> <li>Be sensitive to social situations and the impact these may be having on the patient, their carers and their disease.</li> <li>Understand when information must be shared more widely with schools, carers, police, etc. and understand the responsibilities and implications of sharing information.</li> </ul>

<ul> <li>Be aware of local/national patient support groups and signpost patients and carers to these as appropriate.</li> <li>Receive and respond to communications in complex or challenging situations.</li> <li>Give specialist advice to non-medical retinal specialists.</li> <li>Liaise and support colleagues from other subspecialties, particularly vitreoretinal surgery, to optimise patient care, when co-management is required.</li> <li>Promote professional values within the team.</li> <li>Work as a collaborative member of a team, respecting differences of opinion.</li> <li>Understand the complexities of running a specialty service including the involvement of non-medical practitioners and virtual clinics.</li> <li>Understand how to perform a root cause analysis, e.g. if there is an outbreak of endophthalmitis.</li> <li>Accept constructive and appropriately framed criticism.</li> <li>Support colleagues.</li> <li>Be an advocate for patients.</li> <li>Refer patients when appropriate to eye clinic liaison officers.</li> <li>Manage significant events and complaints, including writing formal reports.</li> <li>Understand and follow local policies in response to complaints.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Participate in education/training of medical students/junior trainees, and allied health professionals in medical retina.</li> <li>Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to Level 3 in medical retinal diseases including laser treatment and intra-vitreal injections.</li> <li>Supervise allied health professionals in delivery of retinal care under guidance of local governance policies.</li> </ul>

The indicative time for training at this level is 12 months of full time equivalent.