



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

# Level 4 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

DRAFT

## Urgent Eye Care (xi)

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Level 4	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Demonstrate advanced clinical management and surgical skills.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Demonstrate competency in diagnosis, investigation and management of acute ophthalmic conditions in the emergency settings.</li><li>▪ Perform ultrasound scans in complex patients differentiating between structures and identifying tissue mobility.</li><li>▪ Demonstrate core skills to manage endophthalmitis, orbital compartment syndrome and primary globe repair.</li><li>▪ Maintain a record of activities, using the RCOphth electronic logbook.</li></ul>
<b>Manage the complexity and uncertainty of urgent eye care.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Understand and apply advanced knowledge of acute sight threatening and life-threatening ocular conditions and practice.</li><li>▪ Diagnose and manage acute sight and life-threatening eye conditions in an emergency setting until sub-specialty management can be arranged.</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 where there is uncertainty.</li><li>▪ Manage the personal challenge of coping with uncertainty.</li><li>▪ Evaluate published developments in ophthalmic knowledge and practice and modify own practice appropriately.</li></ul>

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

- Understand local referral pathways and formulate strategies to minimise unnecessary attendances and optimise access for true emergencies.
- Understand and actively manage the primary/secondary care interface with a strategy for interacting with referral sources and training to optimise resource utilisation.
- 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 Advocacy (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.
- Give specialist advice to non-ophthalmic specialists.
- Liaise and mutually support colleagues from other special interest areas, providing prompt, appropriate and structure handover.
- Obtain results for investigations undertaken in the urgent eye clinic setting and hand them over to the practitioner responsible for on-going care.
- 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 urgent eye care.**

- Participate in education/training of medical students/junior trainees, and allied health professionals in urgent eye care.
- Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to level 3 in urgent eye care.

- Supervise allied professionals in the delivery of urgent eye care under guidance of local governance policies.

The indicative time for training at this level is **9 months** of full time equivalent.

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