**LEVEL 3 SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS – IMPLEMENTATION NOTE NO 7**

**Purpose of this Note**

This Implementation Note is intended to provide guidance to trainee ophthalmologists, Heads of School and TPDs about arrangements for signing off Special Interest Areas (SIAs) at Level 3. It has been drawn up and approved by the Curriculum Sub-Committee.

Thanks go to Dr Emma Samia-Aly who developed the [Curriculum Transition Schedule](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Level-3-SIA-Schedule.docx) as part of the RCOphth CTC Task & Finish Group.

**Process**

1. We suggest that Trainees and Educational Supervisors should meet to complete the overall [Curriculum Transition Schedule](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Level-3-SIA-Schedule.docx) for the 12 SIAs at Level 3 by 30 June 2023. This is not a mandatory document and just an aid to the previously [publicised transition arrangements for Curriculum 2024](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Implementation-Note-3-Transition-progression-requirements-2.docx) (Transition Progression Requirements – Implementation Note No 3).

1. There are CTCs for the new Level 3 [Community Ophthalmology](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CTC-Community-Ophthalmology-Level-3.docx) and [Urgent Eye Care](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CTC-Urgent-Eye-Care-Level-3-1.docx) SIAs, which should be completed separately. This is because these two are likely to present challenges in meeting the Learning Outcomes.

1. If Cataract Surgery has not been signed off as a separate SIA, then the CTC for [Cataract Surgery](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CTC-Cataract-Surgery-Level-1-4.docx) should also be completed.

1. The purposes of this exercise are to:
   * Provide a benchmark of achievement in preparation for transfer to the new Curriculum in August 2024
   * Identify any gaps in training
   * Inform the Educational Supervisor Report (ESR) and ARCP

**Guidance**

1. The transition arrangements Implementation Note No 3 specifies that if the CS has signed off a trainee as not needing any further training in that SIA based on the old curriculum, they will be considered as completed Level 3 in that SIA. If the ESR shows that some SIAs are not completed yet, and the trainee does not have the opportunity to return to them before next year, Level 3 is the only option for that trainee in August 2024 unless they seek further training OR discuss the list of Level 3 competencies with the CS and ES and identify any gaps.

1. If a trainee due to start the ST5 year in August 2024 did a rotation in a specific SIA a couple of years ago (obviously at a lower ST level) and does not have the opportunity to return to it before the transfer, they are advised to seek further training in that SIA OR to discuss the list of Level 3 competencies with the CS and ES and identify the gaps. The research, study, teaching, audit, curriculum (RSTAC) sessions can be used to fill the gaps, followed by a separate sign-off letter by the CS and ES.

1. Level 4 training cannot commence until all SIAs, including non-Patient Management domains, are signed off at Level 3.

1. Please follow the steps and complete the [Curriculum Transition Schedule.](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Level-3-SIA-Schedule.docx)