



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

## **Level 4 Learning Outcomes and descriptors**

Patient Management Domain

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*The Royal College of Ophthalmologists is a registered charity in England and Wales (299872) and in Scotland (SC045652)*

## Community Ophthalmology (xii)

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### Level 4

#### Learning Outcome

#### Descriptors

*An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:*

**Demonstrate advanced skills necessary to assess the eye health needs of a population and analyse local priorities.**

- Work with the local commissioners and wider stakeholders within the local health care system to improve understanding of local eye health needs, drawing on international, national and local data to demonstrate areas of variation in outcomes.
- Work with local commissioners and wider stakeholders to understand the burden of disease on the local population, the value of services (cost of delivery, activity, health gain/outcomes), financial pressures and potential areas for whole system savings.
- Understand local and regional population demographics and the various community services available.
- Be aware of geographical locations of local/regional eye services and the impact this has for service users.
- Understand community needs assessment methods, including utilisation of National Eye Health Epidemiological Model (NEHEM) for commissioning and prioritising of community and hospital eye services.
- Contribute to community needs assessment processes for commissioning and prioritising of community and hospital eye services, where possible.
- Understand the public health and commissioning processes, including datasets, financial flows (e.g. patient level costs).
- Understand the health care structure within the UK, including knowledge of funding structures and how this applies to service configuration both in primary and secondary care setting.
- Show awareness of international eye health issues, including variation in burden of specific eye conditions.
- Understand the demographic, financial and wider social structural elements in eye health provision in regions outside of the UK.
- Know current or important World Health Organization (WHO) initiatives relating to eye health.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Know current or important International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) initiatives relating to eye health.</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluate design and delivery of care pathways.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understand how evidence is generated, and applied, to drive interventions to reduce the burden and impact of disease.</li> <li>▪ Evaluate the relative benefits of different research study designs to inform ophthalmic research on distribution and determinants of eye disease within the population.</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate competence in understanding of epidemiology, e.g. completion of International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH)/London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) open educational resources in Ophthalmic Epidemiology.</li> <li>▪ Apply skills of critical analysis to strategies for the control of major blinding eye diseases, in programme planning, management and evaluation.</li> </ul>
<b>Demonstrate skills to assess and assure high quality outcomes in Community Ophthalmology Services.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engage in regular audit and clinical governance evaluation within the community setting.</li> <li>▪ Take an active role in audit/clinical governance process within own department and encourage a sustainable approach.</li> <li>▪ Perform a relevant health services evaluation project/quality improvement project. Present or publish data in a suitable forum.</li> </ul>
<b>Be an effective clinical leader, supervisor and trainer of the multi-disciplinary team.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participate in education/training of medical students/junior trainees, and allied health professionals in community ophthalmology.</li> <li>▪ Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to Level 3 in community ophthalmology.</li> <li>▪ Supervise allied professionals in the delivery of eye care under guidance of local governance policies and where appropriate employing the Common Clinical Competency Framework.</li> </ul>

The indicative time for training at this level is **6-12 months** of full-time equivalent.