



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

Level 4 Learning Outcomes and descriptors

Patient Management Domain

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

Urgent Eye Care (xi)

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

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 **6-12 months** of full-time equivalent.