



The ROYAL COLLEGE of
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Postgraduate Medical Training

Patient Safety and Quality Improvement syllabus

OST Curriculum domain

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

Level 1	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will:</i>	
Know the principles, recognise the contribution to improved practice, and take part in clinical governance, audit and quality improvement activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Define clinical governance, quality improvement, audit, and service evaluation. ▪ Understand how to respond to situations where clinical governance procedures identify a quality below the expected standard. ▪ Engage with Incident Reporting systems at a local level, including procedures for Serious Untoward Incidents (SUIs) and Never Events. ▪ Assist with running audits, including presenting the findings and planning change. ▪ Recognise when “whistle-blowing” might be necessary, and the appropriate methods of escalating such concerns.
Identify appropriate information from a variety of data sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct literature searches and reviews. ▪ Engage with stakeholders, including patients, doctors, and managers. ▪ Review the resources available for patients with common eye conditions and direct patients to reliable sources of information, on- and off-line. ▪ Understand the factors that can influence information, including (but not limited to) funding sources, political alignment, and author intent or interest.

Level 2	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
Apply clear and appropriate clinical reasoning to make safe decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use a logical thought process in own clinical reasoning, to ensure safe decisions, and be able to justify own conclusions.
Practise in line with latest evidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of Good Medical Practice. ▪ Continually review medical and grey literature adopting changes to guidelines and evaluating the need to adopt emerging treatments and techniques with an appropriate evidence base.
Maintain appropriate audits of practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain a continuous audit of cataract surgery, using the RCOphth online electronic logbook. ▪ Review and reflect on all cases where complications occur.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake an audit of at least 50 consecutive cataract operations where the surgery is performed within three calendar years of the CCT date. ▪ Consider other areas of practice with defined standards, both surgical and non-surgical, and ensure personal audits are conducted.
Apply quality improvement methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand the different methods of quality improvement and when they are most effectively employed. ▪ Select an appropriate quality improvement technique for all projects undertaken, and justify the selection.

Level 3

Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
Design and implement quality improvement programmes to improve clinical effectiveness, patient safety and patient experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review services to improve patient experience. ▪ Understand the basic principles of health commissioning, funding and management at a departmental, hospital, community and national level.
Analyse and critique published research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage in Journal Club activities, presenting a mixture of emerging and historical landmark papers. ▪ Develop critical appraisal techniques, following a logical process, particularly evaluating the effects of funding sources on evidence presented.

Level 4

Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
Share improved practice with others and be able to defend changes made.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Present findings from quality improvement projects at appropriate departmental, regional, national or international level. ▪ Invite discussion around quality improvement techniques and data analysis, accepting improvement or correction where appropriate. ▪ Co-develop/refine local guidelines and protocols, e.g. standard operating procedures (SOPs), patient pathways.

<p>Critically evaluate own skills in quality improvement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use the framework of Good Medical Practice to reflect on own practice and prepare for appraisal. ▪ Consider how own skills may be developed to deliver more effective quality improvement projects.
<p>Promote clinical governance and quality improvement in the wider organisation / NHS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand the reasons for appraisal and revalidation. ▪ Appraise other staff and provide constructive feedback. ▪ Support and develop other individuals, ensuring a team approach. ▪ Encourage a team approach to patient safety, acting as a patient advocate. ▪ Engage in incident and good practice reporting across the organisation, understanding the methods for creating change.

