



**The ROYAL COLLEGE of  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

OST Curriculum 2024

## **Level 3 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)*

## Neuro-ophthalmology (ix)

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### Level 3

#### Learning Outcome

#### Descriptors

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

**Independently assess and manage moderate complexity patients, demonstrating an understanding of neuro-ophthalmology procedures selecting the most appropriate treatment according to current accepted practice.**

- Understand and apply knowledge of medicine and surgery relevant to neuro-ophthalmology practice, to make diagnoses and recommend a management plan.
- Be informed by the patient's unique medical, psychological and social circumstances.
- Understand the tests and imaging techniques that might be helpful in deciding about and guiding treatment, including the indications and limitations of the tests and the interpretation of the results.
- Recognise all urgent neuro-ophthalmology conditions and carry out initial investigation and management.
- Know when to refer to neuro-ophthalmology/ neurology/ medical colleagues for further opinion/ management.
- Use with accuracy and efficiency instruments and tests available to assess the patient, including colour vision testing suitable for the cause of colour vision loss.
- Be familiar with imaging protocols e.g. for acute Horner's syndrome.
  
- Implement a detailed management plan to include care from triage to discharge from care.
- Acknowledge and follow relevant guidelines or protocols.
- Practise in line with the latest evidence.
- Understand the indications, risks and limitations of medical and surgical treatments and identify patients for whom these treatments would be appropriate.
- Involve the patient, and where appropriate, their carer, partner or relatives, in the choices about their care and enable them to express their informed consent.
- Share decision-making by providing patients with appropriate and comprehensible information, prioritising the patient's wishes and respecting the patient's beliefs, concerns and expectations.
- Communicate the uncertainty of options in a manner that patients will understand.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Manage difficult or challenging conversations.</li> <li>▪ Develop situational awareness and an understanding of the impact of cultural and social issues.</li> <li>▪ Enable patient self-management where possible.</li> <li>▪ Understand and apply knowledge of clinical genetics relevant to neuro-ophthalmology conditions.</li> <li>▪ Advise patients about patterns of inheritance and recognise when it is appropriate to refer a patient for genetic counselling.</li> <li>▪ Recognise when it is important to offer a consultation with family members.</li> <li>▪ Recognise when a patient has had or is developing a complication or side effect from treatment and be able to manage this in an appropriate and timely manner.</li> <li>▪ Maintain an understanding of new developments in relevant technologies.</li> <li>▪ Choose appropriate visual field perimeters, strategies and algorithms for neurological assessment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Risk assess and prioritise patients appropriately, recognising the need for special interest input.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Manage patient referrals efficiently, according appropriate priority to referrals based on clinical need and in accordance with local and national guidelines.</li> <li>▪ Refer to more experienced clinicians when appropriate.</li> <li>▪ Manage acute presentations following local guidance.</li> <li>▪ Know the conditions that warrant an urgent onward referral to other healthcare professionals, and be aware of the local policies and systems for making such referrals.</li> <li>▪ Manage surgical waiting lists and other access to clinical services appropriately, intervening when clinical care for a patient is put at risk by inappropriate waiting list management.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Independently perform low complexity neuro-ophthalmology procedures.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Perform botulinum toxin therapy. Be familiar with the neuro-ophthalmic indications, including the principles and side effects of treatment and know the doses used for different indications.</li> <li>▪ Develop new skills in a supervised simulated environment.</li> </ul>