



**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)*

## Urgent Eye Care (xi)

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Level 3	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
<b>Independently assess and manage moderate complexity patients, demonstrating an understanding of urgent eye care procedures and selecting the most appropriate treatment according to current accepted practice.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Understand and apply knowledge of medicine and surgery relevant to ophthalmology, to make diagnoses and recommend a management plan.</li><li>▪ Be informed by the patient's unique medical, psychological and social circumstances.</li><li>▪ Understand the tests and imaging techniques that might be helpful in deciding about and guiding treatment.</li><li>▪ Use with accuracy and efficiency instruments available to assess the patient, including ultrasound and the exophthalmometer.</li> <li>▪ Implement a detailed management plan to include care from triage to discharge from care.</li><li>▪ Acknowledge and follow relevant guidelines or protocols.</li><li>▪ Practise in line with the latest evidence.</li><li>▪ Understand the indications, risks and limitations of laser and surgery and identify patients for whom these treatments would be appropriate.</li><li>▪ Perform urgent laser iridotomy.</li><li>▪ 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.</li><li>▪ 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.</li><li>▪ Communicate the uncertainty of options in a manner that patients will understand.</li><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>▪ Advise patients about patterns of inheritance and recognise when it is appropriate to refer a patient for genetic counselling.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </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 urgent referrals efficiently, according appropriate priority to referrals based on clinical need and in accordance with local and national guidelines.</li> <li>▪ Triage patients in the urgent eye care clinic appropriately.</li> <li>▪ Risk-assess patient and provide treatment and follow-up appropriate for that level of risk, including referral to more experienced clinicians or for surgery where appropriate.</li> <li>▪ Recognise where a patient is low risk and can be managed in a different clinic setting or is appropriate to be discharged back to the community.</li> <li>▪ Manage ocular emergencies in the acute setting, following local guidelines e.g. acute glaucoma, orbital compartment syndrome, orbital cellulitis, endophthalmitis, giant cell arteritis, keratitis and acute neurological presentations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Independently perform surgery requiring immediate intervention.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Achieve safe and appropriate local anaesthetic for ophthalmic procedures.</li> <li>▪ Perform emergency procedures, including, lateral canthotomy and cantholysis, corneal gluing, vitreous biopsy and intravitreal injection.</li> <li>▪ Develop new skills in a supervised simulated environment.</li> </ul>