



**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)

Glaucoma (iv)

Level 4

Learning Outcome

Descriptors

An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:

Demonstrate advanced clinical management and surgical skills.

- Demonstrate competency in diagnosis, investigation and management of glaucoma cases in outpatients, inpatients and emergency settings.
- Have skills in cataract surgery to Level 4.
- Have advanced cataract surgery skills to manage cataract surgery in the setting of glaucoma co-pathology.
- Understand and utilise available instrument technology relevant to glaucoma, e.g. optical coherence tomography (OCT), ultrasound biomicroscopy (UBM).
- Perform glaucoma surgery independently including, but not limited to:
 - trabeculectomy with antimetabolites or non-penetrating glaucoma surgery
 - cyclodestructive procedures
- Understand other glaucoma drainage procedures, including microinvasive techniques and drainage tubes.
- Advise on or perform advanced glaucoma procedures to manage non-responsive acute angle closure glaucoma such as iridoplasty and diode laser.
- Demonstrate skills to manage the complications of glaucoma and cataract surgery including but not exclusively:
 - Hypotony
 - Infection
 - Inflammation
 - aqueous misdirection
 - failing or leaking blebs
 - choroidal detachments
 - haemorrhage

- Undertake prospective audit of specialist surgical outcomes in glaucoma drainage procedures against national and/or published standards.
- Maintain a record of activities, using the RCOphth electronic logbook.

Manage the complexity and uncertainty of glaucoma cases.

- Understand and apply advanced knowledge of glaucoma diseases and practice.
- Independently manage glaucoma clinics and theatre lists.
- Diagnose and manage complex glaucomatous conditions and masquerade presentations including, but not limited to, secondary glaucoma and optic neuropathy.
- Manage and operate on patients whose previous glaucoma surgery has failed.
- 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 glaucoma knowledge and practice and modify own practice appropriately.
- Recognise and refer patients who will benefit from more specialist input.

Apply management and team working skills appropriately, including in complex, dynamic situations.

- 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 Advocate (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.
- Supervise different models of delivery of glaucoma care, including but not limited to virtual clinic and supervision of allied professionals.

- Give specialist advice to non-glaucoma specialists.
- Liaise and support colleagues from other special interest areas to optimise patient care, when co-management is required.
- 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 glaucoma conditions.

- Participate in education/training of medical students/junior trainees, and allied health professionals in glaucoma.
- Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to Level 3 in glaucoma. This includes supervising simple glaucoma procedures and surgery to Level 3.
- Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to Level 4 in cataract surgery.
- Supervise allied professionals in the delivery of glaucoma care under guidance of local governance policies.

The indicative time for training at this level is **up to 18 months** of full-time equivalent.