



**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)

Medical Retina (vi)

Level 4

Learning Outcome

Descriptors

An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:

Demonstrate advanced clinical management and practical skills.

- Demonstrate competency in advanced clinical diagnosis, investigation and management of medical retinal diseases in outpatients, inpatients and emergency settings.
- Advise on patients undergoing cataract surgery with coexisting medical retinal disease, including:
 - diabetic macular oedema (DMO)
 - proliferative diabetic retinopathy (PDR)
 - wet age-related macular degeneration (ARMD)
 - genetic eye disease
- Apply advanced understanding of modern diagnostic techniques (e.g. multimodal imaging), including:
 - optical coherence tomography (OCT)
 - OCT angiography
 - fundus autofluorescence
 - microperimetry
 - the importance and indications for fluorescein or indocyanine green angiography and electrodiagnostic testing (EDT) in selected cases
- Be competent in deciding when to undertake genetic testing and understand genetic testing results and potential uncertainty in the findings:
 - Demonstrate an understanding of patterns of inheritance
 - Demonstrate an understanding of genetic lab reports and ways to deliver results to patients
 - Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the multidisciplinary team in interpreting significant and insignificant variants
- Perform ultrasound scans in complex patients differentiating between structures and identifying tissue mobility.
- Competently employ available intra-vitreous therapies including anti vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and steroids.

- Demonstrate advanced laser skills, including the application of indirect laser for panretinal photocoagulation (PRP) and sub-threshold laser.
- Understand indications, principles and technique for photodynamic therapy.
- Undertake prospective audit of specialist outcomes in medical retinal disease, against national standards.
- Maintain a record of activities, using the RCOphth electronic logbook.

Manage the complexity and uncertainty of medical retina disease cases.

- Understand and apply advanced knowledge of medical retinal conditions and practice.
- Independently manage medical retinal disease clinics.
- Diagnose and manage complex medical retina conditions.
- 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 vitreoretinal 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 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.
- Be aware of local/national patient support groups and signpost patients and carers to these as appropriate.

- Receive and respond to communications in complex or challenging situations.
- Give specialist advice to non-medical retinal specialists.
- Liaise and support colleagues from other subspecialties, particularly vitreoretinal surgery, 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.
- Understand the complexities of running a specialty service including the involvement of non-medical practitioners and virtual clinics.
- Understand how to perform a root cause analysis, e.g. if there is an outbreak of endophthalmitis.
- Accept constructive and appropriately framed criticism.
- Support colleagues.
- Be an advocate for patients.
- Refer patients when appropriate to eye clinic liaison officers.
- 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 medical retina disease.

- Participate in education/training of medical students/junior trainees, and allied health professionals in medical retina.
- Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to Level 3 in medical retinal diseases including laser treatment and intra-vitreous injections.
- Supervise allied health professionals in delivery of retinal care under guidance of local governance policies.

The indicative time for training at this level is **12-18 months** of full-time equivalent.