



**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)

Paediatric Ophthalmology (x)

Level 4	
Learning Outcome	Descriptors
<i>An ophthalmologist achieving this level will, in addition:</i>	
Demonstrate advanced clinical management and surgical skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Demonstrate competency in diagnosis, investigation and management of paediatric ophthalmic patients in outpatients, inpatients and emergency settings.▪ Have advanced skills to assess vision in children of all developmental ages, and assess and manage refractive error, squint and amblyopia.▪ Understand and be able to order (or refer to specialist services) appropriate tests including metabolic tests, genetic tests and electro-diagnostic tests.▪ Perform paediatric squint surgery independently, including horizontal and vertical strabismus surgery.▪ Perform complex extra-ocular muscle surgery, including, but not exclusively, repeated or revision muscle surgery and management of nystagmus.▪ Manage eye and vision problems relating to brain damage and cerebral visual impairment (such as those caused by premature birth or birth trauma).▪ Diagnose and treat retinopathy of prematurity, according to its stage.▪ Co-manage paediatric, glaucoma, corneal and retinal disease and paediatric uveitis with appropriate specialists.▪ Undertake prospective audit of specialist surgical outcomes, against national standards.▪ Maintain a record of activities, using the RCOphth electronic logbook.
Manage the complexity and uncertainty of paediatric ophthalmology cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Understand and apply advanced knowledge of paediatric ophthalmology conditions and practice.▪ Manage a paediatric ophthalmology clinic and theatre lists independently.▪ Diagnose and manage complex conditions (and refer when appropriate) including, but not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- genetic eye disease- complications of retinopathy of prematurity- retinoblastoma and other tumours and paediatric uveitis and brain-related visual problems/cerebral visual impairment

- Manage processes, as part of the wider multi-professional team, in non-accidental injury and child protection.
- Apply knowledge and skills in a flexible manner.
- Utilise existing skills to novel situations.
- Adapt management strategies to take account of patients' and families' informed preferences, particular circumstances, age and co-morbidities.
- Manage the uncertainty of treatment success or failure and communicate effectively with patients and families where there is uncertainty.
- Manage the personal challenge of coping with uncertainty.
- Evaluate published developments in paediatric ophthalmology 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' and families' 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 family and 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.
- Give specialist advice to non-paediatric ophthalmologists and non-ophthalmic colleagues.
- Liaise with colleagues from other special interests to optimise patient care, when co-management is required, including orthoptists, optometrists, paediatricians, paediatric rheumatologists and paediatric neurologists.
- 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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 paediatric ophthalmology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Participate in education/training of medical students/junior trainees, and allied health professionals in paediatrics.▪ Supervise and accredit/sign off trainees to Level 3 in paediatric ophthalmology. This includes supervising horizontal squint surgery to Level 3.

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