

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

Title of occupation: Optometrist (Degree)

Typical Job titles: Optometrist, Ophthalmic, Optician.

This occupation is found in Community practice such as High street, Hospitals, Patient home visits, University. The broad purpose of the occupation is Optometrists are registered professionals who as an autonomous practitioner provide a complete and comprehensive assessment of a patient's eyes and formulate clinical investigations to advise corrective actions. All Optometrists practicing in the UK must be registered with the General Optical Council, the profession's regulatory body. They practice autonomously, safely and effectively within the legal, ethical and professional aspects of practice including the General Optical Council standards, rules and regulations and comply with contractual obligations for their organisation and the NHS. An important part of the optometrist's role is to work collaboratively with wider multi-disciplinary healthcare teams e.g NHS Eye Departments. They are responsible for the management and monitoring of the services they provide in accordance with professional standards.

Optometrists are required to communicate effectively, in an easy to understand manner, to a vast range of patients within all age groups and with complex needs e.g. dementia, partially sighted. They comply with safeguarding and clinical governance requirements. They take concise patient record notes and review previous patient medical history provided by other healthcare professionals. They review and interpret the information to assess the patient's clinical needs to formulate appropriate investigations e.g. if a patient presents with a sudden onset of flashes and floaters - the appropriate investigative techniques would be to dilate the patient's eyes using diagnostic drugs. Within their scope of practice, they will use diagnostic and therapeutic drugs to examine and prescribe.

They use specialist equipment and state-of-the-art technology such as 3D scanners and visual field machines. They critically analyse and evaluate the results of their clinical investigations to detect, diagnose and treat eye diseases within their scope of practice e.g. cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic eye disease and dry eyes. They provide preventative advice on the development of eye disease. They will create, maintain and manage the intervention of a patient management plan to enable and support the patients to make informed decisions.

They use specialist equipment and advanced techniques to determine, issue and dispense a corrective spectacle prescription and contact lens specification, tailored to the patients' needs e.g. complex spectacle prescriptions or low vision requirements. They conduct comprehensive contact lens consultation and aftercare. They will then provide a range of appropriate contact lens options to the patient taking into account of their views, preferences and concerns. They teach appropriate wear and care regimes for contact lens patients.

Optometrists lead and supervise their team which could include dispensing opticians, optical assistants, retail managers etc, to ensure legal and professional standards are upheld. They can delegate certain tasks to dispensing opticians and to their wider team under supervision. They are responsible for maintaining up-to-date knowledge and skills using detailed personal development plans and through continued education and training. They are able to provide clinical and professional development training for their team.

Optometrists are responsible and accountable for assessing specialist occupations ensuring visual standards are met for safe practice e.g. police, HGV drivers, pilot.

Optometrists may have dispensing opticians and optical assistants working alongside them.

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Optometrists understand their role within the business as set out by their companies' economic drivers and business objectives. In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with patients, their carers, parents, multidisciplinary teams to include the NHS, GPs, Practice Managers, Ophthalmologists, Optical Assistants, Dispensing Opticians and Retail Managers. An employee in this occupation will be responsible for meeting legal responsibilities set out by the Opticians Act, the leadership and supervision of the team to uphold professional standards and for keeping their knowledge and skills up to date by maintaining their continued education and training.

Proposed route: Health and Science

Occupation Level: 7

Duration: 48 months

Link to professional registration: Apprentices will be eligible to apply for registration with the General Optical Council as an Optometrist on completion of this apprenticeship.

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Duty 1 Communicate effectively to gather and record complex patient information e.g. previous medical history, information from other healthcare professionals. Communicate effectively with the patient and any other appropriate person involved in the care of the patient, with English being the primary language of communication.

Knowledge

K6 Understands role as part of multidisciplinary healthcare team.

K8 Spectacle frames and lenses, low vision aid design and materials.

Skills

S1 Ability to conduct a safe and competent assessment for the purposes of the optometric consultation, including symptoms and, where necessary, any relevant medical, family and social history of the patient. This may include personal beliefs or cultural factors.

S9 Safely and competently fit contact lenses (including complex lenses. Provide safe aftercare regimes for contact lens patients to maintain ocular health.

Monitor anterior eye health and address any signs or complications that may arise through these processes

S11 Prepare, communicate and manage effective support and aftercare plans in collaboration with patients and other colleagues where appropriate

S12 Communicate with patients with diverse needs, including people with disabilities

S15 How to gain valid patient consent

S17 Communicate effectively with patients, carers and colleagues and is able to adapt communication style where necessary. Ability to pick up on unspoken signals which could indicate lack of understanding, discomfort or lack of consent

S23 Maintain accurate, up-to-date and accessible patient records containing all necessary information, and able to adapt to a range of systems and formats including written and electronic

S31 Ability to use secure information management systems, clinical guidance and protocols, and has the ability to adapt to different regimes at a local level by healthcare providers and employers and is able to adapt practice accordingly

Behaviours

B1 Treat people with dignity and respect

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed

B4 Be caring and compassionate

B6 Honesty and integrity

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D2 Review and interpret information gathered to assess a patient's clinical needs to formulate appropriate clinical investigations e.g. sudden onset of flashes and floaters - appropriate investigative techniques would be to dilate the patient

Knowledge

K2 Understands how to perform a wide range of ocular examination techniques and diagnostic procedures

K3 Understands the visual processing system including binocular vision and its development

K8 Spectacle frames and lenses, low vision aid design and materials

K19 Research and developments in optometry and vision science, including technology

Skills

S1 Ability to conduct a safe and competent assessment for the purposes of the optometric consultation, including symptoms and, where necessary, any relevant medical, family and social history of the patient. This may include personal beliefs or cultural factors

S2 Use diagnostic drugs to examine the eye health of the patient

S5 Ability to analyse and process the information obtained during assessment and examination of the patient to form a differential diagnosis. Able to make a reasoned diagnosis using professional judgement

S6 Ability to diagnose and manage a wide range of normal and abnormal ocular conditions and diseases, and appropriately advises and/or refers patients where necessary to the most appropriate professional, including those external to the practice

S7 Use and supply of exempt and controlled drugs within scope of practice

S13 Use peer-reviewed and clinical literature to make sound clinical judgements and adapt to emerging standards or technology

S21 Critically evaluate research and developments in optometry and visual science, including technology, and translates theory into practice in varied clinical settings across the range of conditions and patient groups reflective of patient need

S25 Understands the limit to your professional competence, knowledge, skills and experience and uses this to work within your scope of practice

Behaviours

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed

B6 Honesty and integrity

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D3 Critically analyse and interpret the results of relevant diagnostic tests e.g. Visual field Interpretation.

Knowledge

K1 The relevant systemic and ocular development, anatomy, biology, physiology, pathophysiology and epidemiology to ocular conditions relevant to the role.

K3 Understands the visual processing system including binocular vision and its development.

K4 Understands geometric and visual optics and accommodation.

K8 Spectacle frames and lenses, low vision aid design and materials.

K19 Research and developments in optometry and vision science, including technology.

Skills

S1 Ability to conduct a safe and competent assessment for the purposes of the optometric consultation, including symptoms and, where necessary, any relevant medical, family and social history of the patient. This may include personal beliefs or cultural factors.

S3 Measurement and management of normal and abnormal visual function.

S5 Ability to analyse and process the information obtained during assessment and examination of the patient to form a differential diagnosis. Able to make a reasoned diagnosis using professional judgement.

S6 Ability to diagnose and manage a wide range of normal and abnormal ocular conditions and diseases, and appropriately advises and/or refers patients where necessary to the most appropriate professional, including those external to the practice.

S8 Diagnosing and managing ocular conditions and diseases as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.

Behaviours

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed

B6 Honesty and integrity

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D4 Conduct appropriate eye examinations to determine and issue a corrective spectacle prescription.

Knowledge

K2 Understands how to perform a wide range of ocular examination techniques and diagnostic procedures.

K4 Understands geometric and visual optics and accommodation.

Skills

S1 Ability to conduct a safe and competent assessment for the purposes of the optometric consultation, including symptoms and, where necessary, any relevant medical, family and social history of the patient. This may include personal beliefs or cultural factors.

S3 Measurement and management of normal and abnormal visual function.

S9 Safely and competently fit contact lenses (including complex lenses. Provide safe aftercare regimes for contact lens patients to maintain ocular health. Monitor anterior eye health and address any signs or complications that may arise through these processes.

S10 Prescribe suitable optical appliances based on visual function, lifestyle, occupational, sporting and protective needs.

Behaviours

B1 Treat people with dignity and respect.

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B4 Be caring and compassionate.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D5 Conduct an appropriate assessment of eye health using specialist equipment and advanced techniques, tailored to the needs of individual patients e.g. low vision or learning disabilities.

Knowledge

K1 The relevant systemic and ocular development, anatomy, biology, physiology, pathophysiology and epidemiology to ocular conditions relevant to the role.

K2 Understands how to perform a wide range of ocular examination techniques and diagnostic procedures.

K4 Understands geometric and visual optics and accommodation.

K19 Research and developments in optometry and vision science, including technology.

Skills

S6 Ability to diagnose and manage a wide range of normal and abnormal ocular conditions and diseases, and appropriately advises and/or refers patients where necessary to the most appropriate professional, including those external to the practice.

S7 Use and supply of exempt and controlled drugs within scope of practice.

S10 Prescribe suitable optical appliances based on visual function, lifestyle, occupational, sporting and protective needs.

S12 Communicate with patients with diverse needs, including people with disabilities.

S13 Use peer-reviewed and clinical literature to make sound clinical judgements and adapt to emerging standards or technology.

S21 Critically evaluate research and developments in optometry and visual science, including technology, and translates theory into practice in varied clinical settings across the range of conditions and patient groups reflective of patient need.

Behaviours

B1 Treat people with dignity and respect.

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B4 Be caring and compassionate.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D6 Critically evaluate the results obtained from the eye examination and eye health assessment to ensure the results are as expected.

Knowledge

K1 The relevant systemic and ocular development, anatomy, biology, physiology, pathophysiology and epidemiology to ocular conditions relevant to the role.

K3 Understands the visual processing system including binocular vision and its development.

K7 Contact lenses (including complex lenses) and the importance of safe aftercare regimes for patients with both rigid and soft contact lenses to maintain ocular health.

K19: Research and developments in optometry and vision science, including technology.

Skills

S3 Measurement and management of normal and abnormal visual function.

S5 Ability to analyse and process the information obtained during assessment and examination of the patient to form a differential diagnosis. Able to make a reasoned diagnosis using professional judgement.

S6 Ability to diagnose and manage a wide range of normal and abnormal ocular conditions and diseases, and appropriately advises and/or refers patients where necessary to the most appropriate professional, including those external to the practice.

S8 Diagnosing and managing ocular conditions and diseases as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.

S10 Prescribe suitable optical appliances based on visual function, lifestyle, occupational, sporting and protective needs.

S11 Prepare, communicate and manage effective support and aftercare plans in collaboration with patients and other colleagues where appropriate.

S21 Critically evaluate research and developments in optometry and visual science, including technology, and translates theory into practice in varied clinical settings across the range of conditions and patient groups reflective of patient need.

S27 Apply skills and professional judgement doing the right thing and putting the patient first.

Behaviours

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D7 Utilise expert clinical knowledge to clearly communicate the eye exam findings.

Knowledge

K1 The relevant systemic and ocular development, anatomy, biology, physiology, pathophysiology and epidemiology to ocular conditions relevant to the role.

K18 Professional duty of candour.

K20 The need to raise concerns promptly, if patient or public safety might be at risk and how to raise and escalate them.

K24 The need to consult with or refer to other colleagues within or outside of the optical sector and is aware of different referral mechanisms within the healthcare system.

K25 The role of eye health and sight loss services within the wider public health context and the need for all health professionals to play a role in health promotion to address changing patient and social demographics.

Skills

S5 Ability to analyse and process the information obtained during assessment and examination of the patient to form a differential diagnosis. Able to make a reasoned diagnosis using professional judgement.

S6 Ability to diagnose and manage a wide range of normal and abnormal ocular conditions and diseases, and appropriately advises and/or refers patients where necessary to the most appropriate professional, including those external to the practice.

S11 Prepare, communicate and manage effective support and aftercare plans in collaboration with patients and other colleagues where appropriate.

S12 Communicate with patients with diverse needs, including people with disabilities.

S17 Communicate effectively with patients, carers and colleagues and is able to adapt communication style where necessary. Ability to pick up on unspoken signals which could indicate lack of understanding, discomfort or lack of consent.

Behaviours

B1 Treat people with dignity and respect.

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B4 Be caring and compassionate.

B5 Sensitive and supportive approach when communicating difficult news.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D8 Conduct comprehensive contact lens examination and aftercare providing a range of appropriate options taking into account the patients' views, preferences and concerns. Prescribing a contact lens specification. Teaching appropriate wear and care regimes for contact lens patients.

Knowledge

K7 Contact lenses (including complex lenses) and the importance of safe aftercare regimes for patients with both rigid and soft contact lenses to maintain ocular health.

Skills

S9 Safely and competently fit contact lenses (including complex lenses). Provide safe aftercare regimes for contact lens patients to maintain ocular health. Monitor anterior eye health and address any signs or complications that may arise through these processes.

S10 Prescribe suitable optical appliances based on visual function, lifestyle, occupational, sporting and protective needs.

S11 Prepare, communicate and manage effective support and aftercare plans in collaboration with patients and other colleagues where appropriate.

Behaviours

B1 Treat people with dignity and respect.

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B4 Be caring and compassionate.

B5 Sensitive and supportive approach when communicating difficult news.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D9 Dispense or supervise the dispensing of spectacles, contact lenses and other optical appliances to patients in a restricted category as defined in the Opticians Act 1989 e.g. a patient aged under 16, low vision aids.

Knowledge

K8 Spectacle frames and lenses, low vision aid design and materials.

Skills

S4 Measurement and manage refractive error and binocular vision to prescribe spectacles, contact lenses or dispense low vision devices.

S10 Prescribe suitable optical appliances based on visual function, lifestyle, occupational, sporting and protective needs.

Behaviours

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D10 Practise autonomously, safely and effectively within the legal, ethical and professional aspects of practice including the General Optical Council standards, rules and regulations. Comply with contractual obligations both to employer and NHS.

Knowledge

K10 Primary Eye Care Service Contracts in the UK.

K11 Valid patient consent. Differences in the law surrounding consent for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

K12 Recognises the need for professional boundaries in practice, particularly to avoid exploiting or unduly influencing patients or the public, whether politically, financially, sexually or by other means.

K16 Law, ethical principles and current regulatory standards relating to optical practice, including the role of the General Optical Council and the requirements of registration.

K17 The need for honesty and integrity to maintain public trust and confidence in the profession.

K18 Professional duty of candour.

K21 The need for lifelong learning/continuing professional development in order to maintain, enhance and develop your practice for the good of patients and the public.

K23 The differences in healthcare systems in each of the four nations of the UK, including remote and urban environments.

Skills

S14 Comply to Primary Eye Care Service contracts.

S19 Complies with the law and ethical principles in relation to optometry. Able to recognise and appropriately manage uncertainty by using professional judgement.

S20 Demonstrate the elements of candour when things go wrong.

S25 Understands the limit to your professional competence, knowledge, skills and experience and uses this to work within your scope of practice.

S27 Apply skills and professional judgement doing the right thing and putting the patient first.

S29 Recognise the social, commercial/financial, legal and political context, in which optometric practice is undertaken and manage these aspects of the role without compromising professional standards and patient care.

Behaviours

B1 Treat people with dignity and respect.

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B4 Be caring and compassionate.

B5 Sensitive and supportive approach when communicating difficult news.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D11 Provide effective leadership and supervision.

Knowledge

K27 Principles of leadership.

Skills

S32 Ability to lead a team.

Behaviours

B1 Treat people with dignity and respect.

B2 Display leadership qualities.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D12 Take responsibility for the clinical and professional development and training of the team as required.

Knowledge

K9 Peer-reviewed and clinical literature.

K19 Research and developments in optometry and vision science, including technology.

K21 The need for lifelong learning/continuing professional development in order to maintain, enhance and develop your practice for the good of patients and the public.

K27 Principles of leadership.

Skills

S21 Critically evaluate research and developments in optometry and visual science, including technology, and translates theory into practice in varied clinical settings across the range of conditions and patient groups reflective of patient need.

S24 Reflect on your own practice alone and with others, drawing on a wide range of different information sources, such as significant events analysis, clinical audit, patient feedback and peer review.

S32 Ability to lead a team.

Behaviours

B2 Display leadership qualities.

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D13 Ensure knowledge and skills are kept up to date by maintaining continued education and training (CET) e.g.evidence-based practice and research articles. Maintaining a progressive personal development plan.

Knowledge

K9 Peer-reviewed and clinical literature.

K19 Research and developments in optometry and vision science, including technology.

K21 The need for lifelong learning/continuing professional development in order to maintain, enhance and develop your practice for the good of patients and the public.

Skills

S13 Use peer-reviewed and clinical literature to make sound clinical judgements and adapt to emerging standards or technology.

S21 Critically evaluate research and developments in optometry and visual science, including technology, and translates theory into practice in varied clinical settings across the range of conditions and patient groups reflective of patient need.

S22 How to raise concerns promptly if patient or public safety might be at risk. Confidence to engage in difficult conversations regarding concerns.

S24 Reflect on your own practice alone and with others, drawing on a wide range of different information sources, such as significant events analysis, clinical audit, patient feedback and peer review.

S25 Understands the limit to your professional competence, knowledge, skills and experience and uses this to work within your scope of practice.

Behaviours

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D14 Instill and/or prescribe diagnostic and therapeutic drugs to examine and treat as necessary, using only within the scope of practice.

Knowledge

K2 Understands how to perform a wide range of ocular examination techniques and diagnostic procedures.

K5 Pharmaceuticals, pharmacology and microbiology in relation to patient care. Understands the principles of independent prescribing and the legislation relating to the use and supply of exempt and controlled drugs.

K22 The limit to your professional competence, knowledge, skills and experience within your scope of practice.

Skills

S7 Use and supply of exempt and controlled drugs within scope of practice.

S25 Understands the limit to your professional competence, knowledge, skills and experience and uses this to work within your scope of practice.

Behaviours

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D15 Give preventative information, advice and guidance on the potential development of future eye disease and systemic disease.

Knowledge

K1 The relevant systemic and ocular development, anatomy, biology, physiology, pathophysiology and epidemiology to ocular conditions relevant to the role.

K9 Peer-reviewed and clinical literature.

K19 Research and developments in optometry and vision science, including technology.

K21 The need for lifelong learning/continuing professional development in order to maintain, enhance and develop your practice for the good of patients and the public.

K25 The role of eye health and sight loss services within the wider public health context and the need for all health professionals to play a role in health promotion to address changing patient and social demographics.

Skills

S8 Diagnosing and managing ocular conditions and diseases as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.

S11 Prepare, communicate and manage effective support and aftercare plans in collaboration with patients and other colleagues where appropriate.

S13 Use peer-reviewed and clinical literature to make sound clinical judgements and adapt to emerging standards or technology.

Behaviours

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B5 Sensitive and supportive approach when communicating difficult news.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

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D16 Formulate a bespoke patient management plan to support the patient in making an informed decision.

Knowledge

K22 The limit to your professional competence, knowledge, skills and experience within your scope of practice.

K24 The need to consult with or refer to other colleagues within or outside of the optical sector and is aware of different referral mechanisms within the healthcare system.

Skills

S5 Ability to analyse and process the information obtained during assessment and examination of the patient to form a differential diagnosis. Able to make a reasoned diagnosis using professional judgement.

S6 Ability to diagnose and manage a wide range of normal and abnormal ocular conditions and diseases, and appropriately advises and/or refers patients where necessary to the most appropriate professional, including those external to the practice.

S8 Diagnosing and managing ocular conditions and diseases as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.

S11 Prepare, communicate and manage effective support and aftercare plans in collaboration with patients and other colleagues where appropriate.

S19 Complies with the law and ethical principles in relation to optometry. Able to recognise and appropriately manage uncertainty by using professional judgement.

S25 Understands the limit to your professional competence, knowledge, skills and experience and uses this to work within your scope of practice.

Behaviours

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B6 Honesty and integrity.

Optometrist (Degree) Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

D17 Uphold duty of care e.g. record card keeping, confidentiality, consent and patient safety. Adhere to relevant national and local protocols for referrals and clinical governance. Comply with safeguarding obligations.

Knowledge

K6 Understands role as part of multidisciplinary healthcare team.

K10 Primary Eye Care Service Contracts in the UK.

K11 Valid patient consent. Differences in the law surrounding consent for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

K12 Recognises the need for professional boundaries in practice, particularly to avoid exploiting or unduly influencing patients or the public, whether politically, financially, sexually or by other means.

K13 The principles and laws relating to equality, diversity and inclusion.

K14 Personal responsibility to protect and safeguard patients, colleagues and others from harm. Legal requirements related to safeguarding, particularly in relation to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

K15 Confidentiality in accordance with legislation.

K16 Law, ethical principles and current regulatory standards relating to optical practice, including the role of the General Optical Council and the requirements of registration.

K17 The need for honesty and integrity to maintain public trust and confidence in the profession.

K18 Professional duty of candour.

K20 The need to raise concerns promptly, if patient or public safety might be at risk and how to raise and escalate them.

K23 The differences in healthcare systems in each of the four nations of the UK, including remote and urban environments.

K26 The concept of clinical governance which may include, but is not limited to, infection control, information security, operating a complaints mechanism and using data from clinical audit or patient feedback to review and improve practice.

Skills

S14 Comply to Primary Eye Care Service contracts.

S16 Does not discriminate when providing patient care.

S17 Communicate effectively with patients, carers and colleagues and is able to adapt communication style where necessary. Ability to pick up on unspoken signals which could indicate lack of understanding, discomfort or lack of consent.

S18 Maintain confidentiality in accordance with legislation.

S19 Complies with the law and ethical principles in relation to optometry. Able to recognise and appropriately manage uncertainty by using professional judgement.

S20 Demonstrate the elements of candour when things go wrong.

S22 How to raise concerns promptly if patient or public safety might be at risk. Confidence to engage in difficult conversations regarding concerns.

S27 Apply skills and professional judgement doing the right thing and putting the patient first.

S29 Recognise the social, commercial/financial, legal and political context, in which optometric practice is undertaken and manage these aspects of the role

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without compromising professional standards and patient care.

S30 Respects and values the roles and contributions of other health and social care professionals within the healthcare system. Can work effectively in multi-disciplinary health and social care teams across a range of health and social care settings and across organisational boundaries.

S31 Ability to use secure information management systems, clinical guidance and protocols, and has the ability to adapt to different regimes at a local level by healthcare providers and employers and is able to adapt practice accordingly.

Behaviours

B6 Honesty and integrity.

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D18 Work collaboratively in multi-disciplinary healthcare teams and engage in appropriate shared care schemes. Comply with legal duty to refer as necessary.

Knowledge

K6 Understands role as part of multidisciplinary healthcare team.

K10 Primary Eye Care Service Contracts in the UK.

K23 The differences in healthcare systems in each of the four nations of the UK, including remote and urban environments.

K24 The need to consult with or refer to other colleagues within or outside of the optical sector and is aware of different referral mechanisms within the healthcare system.

Skills

S8 Diagnosing and managing ocular conditions and diseases as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.

S11 Prepare, communicate and manage effective support and aftercare plans in collaboration with patients and other colleagues where appropriate.

S28 Deal appropriately and promptly with an emergency situation in practice, whether an eye-related or medical emergency, taking into account your own scope of practice and training.

S30 Respects and values the roles and contributions of other health and social care professionals within the healthcare system. Can work effectively in multi-disciplinary health and social care teams across a range of health and social care settings and across organisational boundaries.

Behaviours

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B4 Be caring and compassionate.

B5 Sensitive and supportive approach when communicating difficult news.

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D19 Work within the economic drivers and business objectives, commercial context and constraints.

Knowledge

K10 Primary Eye Care Service Contracts in the UK.

K26 The concept of clinical governance which may include, but is not limited to, infection control, information security, operating a complaints mechanism and using data from clinical audit or patient feedback to review and improve practice.

K27 Principles of leadership.

Skills

S31 Ability to use secure information management systems, clinical guidance and protocols, and has the ability to adapt to different regimes at a local level by healthcare providers and employers and is able to adapt practice accordingly.

Behaviours

B2 Display leadership qualities.

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Duties

- D1 Communicate effectively to gather and record complex patient information e.g. previous medical history, information from other healthcare professionals. Communicate effectively with the patient and any other appropriate person involved in the care of the patient, with English being the primary language of communication
- D2 Review and interpret information gathered to assess a patient's clinical needs to formulate appropriate clinical investigations e.g. sudden onset of flashes and floaters - appropriate investigative techniques would be to dilate the patient
- D3 Critically analyse and interpret the results of relevant diagnostic tests e.g. Visual field Interpretation
- D4 Conduct appropriate eye examinations to determine and issue a corrective spectacle prescription
- D5 Conduct an appropriate assessment of eye health using specialist equipment and advanced techniques, tailored to the needs of individual patients e.g. low vision or learning disabilities
- D6 Critically evaluate the results obtained from the eye examination and eye health assessment to ensure the results are as expected
- D7 Utilise expert clinical knowledge to clearly communicate the eye exam findings
- D8 Conduct comprehensive contact lens examination and aftercare providing a range of appropriate options taking into account the patients views preferences and concerns. Prescribing a contact lens specification. Teaching appropriate wear and care regimes for contact lens patients
- D9 Dispense or supervise the dispensing of spectacles, contact lenses and other optical appliances to patients in a restricted category as defined in the Opticians Act 1989 e.g. a patient aged under 16, low vision aids
- D10 Practise autonomously, safely and effectively within the legal, ethical and professional aspects of practice including the General Optical Council standards, rules and regulations. Comply with contractual obligations both to employer and NHS
- D11 Provide effective leadership and supervision
- D12 Take responsibility for the clinical and professional development and training of the team as required
- D13 Ensure knowledge and skills are kept up to date by maintaining continued education and training (CET) e.g. evidence-based practice and research articles. Maintaining a progressive personal development plan
- D14 Instill and/or prescribe diagnostic and therapeutic drugs to examine and treat as necessary, using only within the scope of practice
- D15 Give preventative information, advice and guidance on the potential development of future eye disease and systemic disease
- D16 Formulate a bespoke patient management plan to support the patient in making an informed decision
- D17 Uphold duty of care e.g. record card keeping, confidentiality, consent and patient safety. Adhere to relevant national and local protocols for referrals and clinical governance. Comply with safeguarding obligations
- D18 Work collaboratively in multi-disciplinary healthcare teams and engage in appropriate shared care schemes. Comply with legal duty to refer as necessary
- D19 Work within the economic drivers and business objectives, commercial context and constraints

Knowledge

- K1 The relevant systemic and ocular development, anatomy, biology, physiology, pathophysiology and epidemiology to ocular conditions relevant to the role.
- K2 Understands how to perform a wide range of ocular examination techniques and diagnostic procedures.
- K3 Understands the visual processing system including binocular vision and its development.
- K4 Understands geometric and visual optics and accommodation.
- K5 Pharmaceuticals, pharmacology and microbiology in relation to patient care. Understands the principles of independent prescribing and the legislation relating to the use and supply of exempt and controlled drugs.
- K6 Understands role as part of multidisciplinary healthcare team.

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- K7 Contact lenses (including complex lenses) and the importance of safe aftercare regimes for patients with both rigid and soft contact lenses to maintain ocular health.
- K8 Spectacle frames and lenses, low vision aid design and materials.
- K9 Peer-reviewed and clinical literature.
- K10 Primary Eye Care Service Contracts in the UK.
- K11 Valid patient consent. Differences in the law surrounding consent for children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- K12 Recognises the need for professional boundaries in practice, particularly to avoid exploiting or unduly influencing patients or the public, whether politically, financially, sexually or by other means.
- K13 The principles and laws relating to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- K14 Personal responsibility to protect and safeguard patients, colleagues and others from harm. Legal requirements related to safeguarding, particularly in relation to children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- K15 Confidentiality in accordance with legislation.
- K16 Law, ethical principles and current regulatory standards relating to optical practice, including the role of the General Optical Council and the requirements of registration.
- K17 The need for honesty and integrity to maintain public trust and confidence in the profession.
- K18 Professional duty of candour.
- K19 Research and developments in optometry and vision science, including technology.
- K20 The need to raise concerns promptly, if patient or public safety might be at risk and how to raise and escalate them.
- K21 The need for lifelong learning/continuing professional development in order to maintain, enhance and develop your practice for the good of patients and the public.
- K22 The limit to your professional competence, knowledge, skills and experience within your scope of practice.
- K23 The differences in healthcare systems in each of the four nations of the UK, including remote and urban environments.
- K24 The need to consult with or refer to other colleagues within or outside of the optical sector and is aware of different referral mechanisms within the healthcare system.
- K25 The role of eye health and sight loss services within the wider public health context and the need for all health professionals to play a role in health promotion to address changing patient and social demographics.
- K26 The concept of clinical governance which may include, but is not limited to, infection control, information security, operating a complaints mechanism and using data from clinical audit or patient feedback to review and improve practice.
- K27 Principles of leadership.

Skills

- S1 Ability to conduct a safe and competent assessment for the purposes of the optometric consultation, including symptoms and, where necessary, any relevant medical, family and social history of the patient. This may include personal beliefs or cultural factors.
- S2 Use diagnostic drugs to examine the eye health of the patient.
- S3 Measurement and management of normal and abnormal visual function.
- S4 Measurement and manage refractive error and binocular vision to prescribe spectacles, contact lenses or dispense low vision devices.
- S5 Ability to analyse and process the information obtained during assessment and examination of the patient to form a differential diagnosis. Able to make a reasoned diagnosis using professional judgement.
- S6 Ability to diagnose and manage a wide range of normal and abnormal ocular conditions and diseases, and appropriately advises and/or refers patients where necessary to the most appropriate professional, including those external to the practice.
- S7 Use and supply of exempt and controlled drugs within scope of practice.

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- S8 Diagnosing and managing ocular conditions and diseases as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.
- S9 Safely and competently fit contact lenses (including complex lenses. Provide safe aftercare regimes for contact lens patients to maintain ocular health. Monitor anterior eye health and address any signs or complications that may arise through these processes.
- S10 Prescribe suitable optical appliances based on visual function, lifestyle, occupational, sporting and protective needs.
- S11 Prepare, communicate and manage effective support and aftercare plans in collaboration with patients and other colleagues where appropriate.
- S12 Communicate with patients with diverse needs, including people with disabilities.
- S13 Use peer-reviewed and clinical literature to make sound clinical judgements and adapt to emerging standards or technology.
- S14 Comply to Primary Eye Care Service contracts.
- S15 How to gain valid patient consent.
- S16 Does not discriminate when providing patient care.
- S17 Communicate effectively with patients, carers and colleagues and is able to adapt communication style where necessary. Ability to pick up on unspoken signals which could indicate lack of understanding, discomfort or lack of consent.
- S18 Maintain confidentiality in accordance with legislation.
- S19 Complies with the law and ethical principles in relation to optometry. Able to recognise and appropriately manage uncertainty by using professional judgement.
- S20 Demonstrate the elements of candour when things go wrong.
- S21 Critically evaluate research and developments in optometry and visual science, including technology, and translates theory into practice in varied clinical settings across the range of conditions and patient groups reflective of patient need.
- S22 How to raise concerns promptly if patient or public safety might be at risk. Confidence to engage in difficult conversations regarding concerns.
- S23 Maintain accurate, up-to-date and accessible patient records containing all necessary information, and able to adapt to a range of systems and formats including written and electronic.
- S24 Reflect on your own practice alone and with others, drawing on a wide range of different information sources, such as significant events analysis, clinical audit, patient feedback and peer review.
- S25 Understands the limit to your professional competence, knowledge, skills and experience and uses this to work within your scope of practice.
- S26 Describe what is required for a safe environment for patients and their own responsibility to ensure this is delivered. Confidence to take appropriate action if an environment is compromising patient safety.
- S27 Apply skills and professional judgement doing the right thing and putting the patient first.
- S28 Deal appropriately and promptly with an emergency situation in practice, whether an eye-related or medical emergency, taking into account your own scope of practice and training.
- S29 Recognise the social, commercial/financial, legal and political context, in which optometric practice is undertaken and manage these aspects of the role without compromising professional standards and patient care.
- S30 Respects and values the roles and contributions of other health and social care professionals within the healthcare system. Can work effectively in multi-disciplinary health and social care teams across a range of health and social care settings and across organisational boundaries.
- S31 Ability to use secure information management systems, clinical guidance and protocols, and has the ability to adapt to different regimes at a local level by healthcare providers and employers and is able to adapt practice accordingly.
- S32 Ability to lead a team.

Behaviours

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B1 Treat people with dignity and respect.

B2 Display leadership qualities.

B3 Be competent, reliable and committed.

B4 Be caring and compassionate.

B5 Sensitive and supportive approach when communicating difficult news.

B6 Honesty and integrity.