

Competencies and Qualification Summary Table – Primary Care Optometrist

Glaucoma	Pathway	Core Competency	Experience			College Higher Quals			Other
			CPD	WOPEC	Local	Prof	Higher	Diploma	N/A
	Repeat Measures		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	N/A
	Enhanced Case-Finding		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	N/A
	Monitoring & Management (Consultant Supervision)		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	N/A
	Monitoring (low risk against Management plan)		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	N/A
	Management (low risk autonomous)*		◇	◆	◇	◆	◆	◆	N/A
	Referral Refinement*		◇	◇	◇	◇	◆	◆	N/A
	Medium risk / Stable Glaucoma management*		◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◆	N/A

* Optometrists can deliver all levels of glaucoma care if working under the supervision of a consultant ophthalmologist. An IP qualification may support the independent prescribing decision for management.

Urgent	Pathway	Core Competency	Experience			College Higher Quals			Other
			CPD	WOPEC	Local	Prof	Higher	Diploma	IP
	MECS		◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	◆
	CUES		◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	◆
	FB removal		◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	◇
	CUES (IP)		Bespoke training			N/A	N/A	N/A	◆

Many primary care urgent eye care services now include FB removal. WOPEC have a specific 'add-on' module.

Cataract	Pathway	Core Competency	Experience			College Higher Quals			Other
			CPD	WOPEC	Local	Prof	Higher	Diploma	N/A
	Pre-operative		◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Post-operative		◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Pre-operative (direct to list)		◇	◇	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Medical Retina	Pathway	Core Competency	Experience			College Higher Quals			Other
			CPD	WOPEC	Local	Prof	Higher	Diploma	DES Dip
	Referral Filtering (AMD / DMO) with A&G / virtual review		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A
	Monitoring (AMD)		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A
	Monitoring (HCQ & CQ) with A&G / virtual review		◆	◇	◆	◇	◇	N/A	N/A
	DES (screening and grading)		Bespoke training			◇	◇	N/A	◆

LOCSU and WOPEC are developing an 'add-on' module for the HCQ monitoring pathway. DES Diploma for Health Screeners is required for all providers of DES, the College prof cert provides approval of prior learning towards the diploma.

Children	Pathway	Core Competency	Experience			College Higher Quals			Other
			CPD	WOPEC	Local	Prof	Higher	Diploma	SeeAbility
	Vision screening		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A
	Refinement (following screening)		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A
	SEN (NHS special school project)		Bespoke training in development			◇	◇	N/A	◆

Other	Pathway	Core Competency	Experience			College Higher Quals			Other
			CPD	WOPEC	Local	Prof	Higher	Diploma	N/A
	Learning Disability		◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Low Vision		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A

Key for Tables

	Core Competency
	Not Core Competency
◆	Skill requirements can be fully met
◆	Skill requirements are almost met and will be fully met with an 'add on' (to be developed)
◇	Skill requirements are partly met

Note: Core competencies are the individual professional's responsibility to maintain or request a training update via either WOPEC or local schemes.

Competencies and Qualification Summary Table – Dispensing Optician

Cataract	Pathway	Dispensing Opticians can complete the WOPEC cataract module & support in data & consent gathering from patients.										

Glaucoma	Pathway	Core Competency	Experience			OPT Level			College Higher Quals			Other
			CPD	WOPEC	Local	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Prof	Higher	Diploma	N/A
	Repeat measures*	ESCLO	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* The ESCLO can perform repeat measures under supervision.

ESCLO is a CLO who has undertaken some limited additional training. Dispensing Opticians can support by undertaking data gathering such as OCT (courses in development by ABDO & WOPEC/LOCSU) and fields etc.

Urgent	Pathway	Core Competency	Experience			OPT Level			College Higher Quals			FBDO Contact Lens Certificate	
			CPD	WOPEC	Local	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Prof	Higher	Diploma	Certificate	Contact Lens Hons
	MECS*	ESCLO	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	◆	◆
	CUES*	ESCLO	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	◆	◆

* Many primary care urgent eye care services now include superficial foreign body removal. WOPEC have a specific 'add-on' module.

The ESCLO can perform MECS & CUES.

Children	Pathway	Core Competency	Experience			OPT Level			College Higher Quals			Other
			CPD	WOPEC	Local	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Prof	Higher	Diploma	SeeAbility
	Vision screening	All DOs	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	SEN / Learning disability – NHS special school project		Bespoke training in development			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	◆

Other	Pathway	Core Competency	Experience			OPT Level			College Higher Quals			Other
			CPD	WOPEC	Local	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Prof	Higher	Diploma	SeeAbility
	Learning disability	All DOs	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	◆
	Low vision	All DOs	◆	◆	◆	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Childrens Dispensing should only be undertaken by a registered Dispensing Optician or Optometrist or under the supervision of one of these practitioners.

All Dispensing Opticians are qualified in Low Vision but ABDO also offer an add on course to further advance knowledge in this field.

Note: Core competencies are the individual professional's responsibility to maintain or request a training update via either WOPEC or local schemes.

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Competencies and Qualification Summary Table – Appendix






Developed in conjunction with key eye care stakeholders, NHS England facilitated the development of this competency and qualification table, working through their National Eye Care Recovery and Transformation Programme (NECRTP). The digital version of this document is available on Future NHS, the national sharing platform for the health and social care community future.nhs.uk

The NECRTP aims to support systems/regions in implementing standardised integrated care pathways across cataracts, urgent care, medical retina, and glaucoma pathways. The summary table can be used to rapidly identify how different professionals can contribute to key high volume eye care services within primary care.

Purpose

This competencies and qualification summary table is to supplement 'The Registered Eyecare Professionals – multi-professional skills to deliver new pathways of care' document. The table highlights some key competencies which can be delivered with core competence, with local development and with post-graduate qualifications. This ensures the best use of their skills without the burden of unnecessary courses.

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Important Definitions

Accreditation of prior learning	Other appropriate qualifications will be recognised through a process of APL. Qualifications will be considered as the need arises and will inform an equivalency table, to be developed and held by the College.
Advice and guidance / Remote virtual review	A more complex case mix and/or increased scope of care can be achieved within an integrated care model with expert A&G/remote virtual review. This could lead to a change in the patients management plan for the Optometrist to deliver against.
Core competency	Core competencies are the individual professional's responsibility to maintain or request a training update via either WOPEC or local schemes.
Management	Management is a clinical process of initiating and reviewing treatment in response to changes in a patient's clinical or disease status. Management may include establishing a management plan.
Monitoring	Monitoring is a clinical process of following a patient's condition through time to detect changes in clinical or disease status which may require action. An Optometrist will be monitoring a patients condition, following their management plan to identify clinical change.
New techniques	There is an overarching requirement for optometrists to maintains skills in all new equipment available to them. Delivered through manufacture training and CPD.
Supervision	The case mix and scope of care will vary depending on the level of supervision provided in an integrated care model. For example; Optometrists can deliver all levels of glaucoma care if working under the supervision of a consultant.

Important Abbreviations

CPD	Continued Professional Development
WOPEC	Wales Optometry Postgraduate Education Centre Course
OPT	Ophthalmic Practitioner Training
College Higher Qualls	College of Optometrist Higher Qullifications
MSC ACP	Advanced Clinical Practice Ophthalmic Degree
DES	Diabetic Eye Screening
IP	Independent Prescribing

