



Framework for the Qualifying Professional Examinations for Dispensing Opticians Applying for Registration with the Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe

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Framework for the Implementation of Qualifying Professional Examinations for Dispensing Opticians Applying for Registration with the Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe

1. INTRODUCTION

The Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe (PCZ) previously required applicants wishing to register as dispensing opticians in Zimbabwe to submit only their certificates and academic transcripts from any recognizable local or foreign based school of optometry. A recognizable school of optometry was defined generally as any optometry training institution known to produce dispensing opticians qualified to practice the profession of dispensing opticians within its own country of origin. No pre-registration examinations have been previously prescribed by the Council. As the dispensing of eye care products develops academically and professionally, regulators of professional practice need not only assure the quality of optical dispensing education but also ensure that specific knowledge, skills and attitudes imparted by academic institutions remain adequate as well as appropriate within the targeted practice settings.

2. BACKGROUND ON THE ROLE OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS

The role of dispensing opticians in health care systems of developing countries can never be ignored. Every patient deserves to be treated by an optometrist or dispensing optician who meets high standards of personal and professional conduct. Standards are set so that every registered practitioner knows what is expected of them. Standards are set in two areas: performance and knowledge; and behaviour and action is taken against registrants who do not meet these standards.

3. PURPOSE OF THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

Qualifying examinations are designed for the evaluation of applicants' competency (knowledge, skills and abilities) to practice as a dispensing optician safely and effectively in "entry level" positions. These evaluations are generally based on the practice competencies defined by the official regulatory body. The PCZ has through its Education and Liaison Committee produced a document defining those competencies that reflect the current standard of practice in Zimbabwe. This Framework document has drafted those competencies. The qualifying examination ensures that successful candidates have met the required standard of

competence. Through a process of producing regular updates of the required competencies, the PCZ will position itself to directly influence the direction of dispensing opticians practice in the country as required by the Health Professions Act [Cap 27:19].

Assessment of competence requires the understanding and application of knowledge, attitudes, and skills as well as the performance of key professional tasks. Some important professional skills and abilities cannot be measured well with a traditional, multiple-choice question format. The Council therefore reserves the right to introduce other methods such as performance-based assessment, or interviews.

4. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR DISPENSING OPTICIANS PRACTICE AND THE STRUCTURE OF QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS IN ZIMBABWE

The minimum requirements for registering to practice as dispensing opticians in Zimbabwe are clearly defined and accessible to all applicants locally as well as internationally. There is accessibility of those requirements even for early career seekers in high school in order to promote early professional attitude development. Those requirements are also available on the PCZ website for effective achievement of this goal.

With reference to other dispensing opticians professional regulators globally, the PCZ has implemented the following minimum requirements for dispensing opticians practice:

A. Evidence of successful completion of a diploma in optical dispensing from a recognized or accredited training institution.

The local minimum academic requirement is the diploma in optical dispensing coupled with registration with an international professional body or any other qualifications that Council might prescribe from time to time.

B. Successful completion of qualifying examinations

Every applicant who submits evidence of minimum academic qualifications (unless exempted or denied eligibility by the Council) would be eligible to write a qualifying examination. The examination would cover technical theory and professional, ethical, social, legal and administrative subjects.

5. COUNCIL EXPECTATIONS FOR QUALIFIED DISPENSING OPTICIANS

a) Knowledge and understanding:

Dispensing opticians are expected to;

- Have a systematic understanding and a coherent and detailed knowledge of concepts, principles, and procedures in ophthalmic dispensing.
- Display sound scientific knowledge and understanding of the key aspects of ophthalmic dispensing underpinning the dispensing of an appropriate optical appliance.
- display sound knowledge of relevant legislation and civil laws, as well as codes of conduct and professional guidance, to be able to care for, respect and protect the rights, dignity, privacy and confidentiality of patients in fulfilling his/her duty of care as a Dispensing Optician.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of methods of assessing vision, refraction, binocular status and visual acuity in all patients. Show basic knowledge relating to the choice, fitting and management of contact lenses, for those who have done contact lens fitting. Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of the management of visually impaired patients, Low vision.

b) Skills:

Dispensing opticians are expected to;

- Seek and communicate relevant information from and to patients in an effective and appropriate manner.
- Apply analytical skills to problem-solving in dispensing
- Interpret and dispense a prescription using appropriate lenses and facial and frame measurements Identify key elements of problems and apply appropriate methods for their resolution in a considered manner.
- Operate collaboratively as part of a team Advise on and dispense appropriate spectacle frame types and materials and lens forms and materials.
- Analyze experimental data and infer conclusions from this analysis.
- Analyze the performance of optical instruments, including those relevant to dispensing in optical practice
- Have Information Technology skills with broad application to the activities of dispensing opticians
- Select appropriate formulae to calculate and evaluate basic parameters of spectacle lenses
- Have the ability to accurately record observations in various contexts which can be transferred to this key aspect of

a dispensing optician's professional life

- Apply basic practice management skills to dispensing situations Utilize numerical problem solving skills in a variety of situations

c) **Values and attitudes:**

Dispensing opticians are expected to;

- Manage a patient's care in a safe, ethical and confidential environment
- Use appropriate interpersonal and communication skills with patients and professional colleagues.

Dispensing Optician core Competencies

Unit of Competency	Elements of Competence	Performance Criteria	Indicators
1. Communication The ability to communicate effectively with the patient and any other appropriate person involved in the care of the patient.	1.1 The ability to communicate effectively with a diverse group of patients with a range of optometric conditions and needs	1.1.1 Obtains relevant history and information relating to general health, medication, family history, work, lifestyle and personal requirements.	Asks appropriate questions to obtain a full history. Employs appropriate strategies to understand the patient's needs by not interrupting and then check understanding.
		1.1.2 Elicits the detail and of any significant symptoms.	Employs an appropriate mix of questions to elicit information from patients, for example, open and questions.
		1.1.3 Identifies and responds appropriately to patients' fears, anxieties and concerns about their visual welfare.	Establishes and maintains a good professional and clinical relationship with the patient to inspire confidence. Recognises emotion in patients. Explores patient concerns and provides reassurance where appropriate, using explanations that to that patient
	1.2 The ability to impart information in a manner which is appropriate to the recipient	1.2.1 Understands the patient's expectations and aspirations and manages situations where these cannot be met	Conveys expert knowledge in an informative and understandable way, for example, not using jargon. Explores the patients' expectations and checks the level of understanding. Employs a patient-centred approach to understand the patient's perspective. Is able to empathise with and manage the patient's needs, resolving any problems to mutual
		1.2.2 Communicates with patients who have poor or non-verbal communication skills, or those who are confused, reticent or who mislead.	Makes effective use of body language to support explanation. Demonstrates awareness of our own body language. Uses appropriate supporting material
		1.2.3 Discusses with the patient importance of systemic disease its ocular impact, its treatment and the possible ocular side effects of medication.	Provides a layman's explanation of the ocular impact of a particular disease Uses appropriate supporting material, for example, diagrams or leaflets, and uses a range of explanations where required to avoid repetition. Understands limitations of knowledge, referring the patient for advice where necessary
		1.2.4 Explains to the patient the implications of their pathological or physiological eye condition.	Gives factually relevant information in a clear and understandable way, avoiding jargon and Uses appropriate supporting material, for example, diagrams or leaflets, and uses a range of explanations where required to avoid repetition. Understands limitations of knowledge, referring the patient for advice where necessary
		1.2.5 Communicates effectively any other appropriate person involved in the care of the patient	Records and discusses advice and management in a clear and appropriate manner

Unit of Competency	Elements of Competence	Performance Criteria	Indicators
2. Professional Conduct The ability to comply with the legal, ethical and professional aspects of practice	2.1 The ability to manage patients in a safe, appropriate and Confidential environment	2.1. 1 Adheres to Health and policies in the practice including ability to implement appropriate measures for infection control	Demonstrates a proactive approach to Health and Safety issues such as identifying hazards, risk assessment, first aid, etc, in order to produce a safe environment for staff and patients alike. Demonstrates appropriate personal hygiene, cleanliness of the practice, hygiene relating to instrumentation, contact lenses, disposal of clinical waste etc.
		2.1.2 Maintains confidentiality in all aspects of patient care	Demonstrates knowledge of _____ and how this impacts on security, access and confidentiality of patient records.
		2.1.3 Shows respect for all _____	Recognises and takes into consideration patient's specific needs and requirements e.g cultural or religious belief
	2.2 The ability to comply with legal, professional and ethical issues relating to practice	2.2.1 is able to manage all patients including those who have clinical or social needs	Respects and cares for all patients and their carers in a caring, patient, sensitive and appropriate Has knowledge of _____, and ensures the patient environment is safe, inviting and user-friendly in terms of access and facilities for all patients. Has an awareness of different types of disabilities and patients with additional needs. Understands the criteria and process for appropriate referral
		2.2.2 Is able to work within a multi-disciplinary team	Respects the roles of other members of the practice team and how working together gives the highest possible level of care. Is aware of local and national shared care schemes and the roles of the practice staff within schemes.
		2.2.3 Is able to work within the law and within the codes and set by the regulator and the profession.	Demonstrates knowledge of the advice and guidance set by the respective professional body. Demonstrates knowledge of the code of conduct set down by the _____ Council. Demonstrates a knowledge of the relevant law relating to their role _____ benefits, fees and charges.
		2.2.4 Creates and keeps full, clear, accurate and contemporaneous records.	Is able to produce records which are legible and contain all relevant patient details, results and advice Demonstrates how to handle payments appropriately, effectively and Explains clearly any _____, fees and charges to the patient and records accurately all dates relating to payments.
		2.2.5 Interprets and responds to existing records	Identifies, checks and responds to the significance of previous optical Modifies measurements and advice appropriately based on current correction, present _____ previous records

Unit of Competency	Elements of Competence	Performance Criteria	Indicators
3. Methods of Ocular Examination An understanding of instrumentation used in the examination of the eye and related structures	3.1 An understanding of the use of instruments used in the examination of the eye and related structures, and the implications of results	3.1.1 Understands the methods of measurement of corneal curvature and assessment of regularity	Understands the use and optical principle of the keratometer, one and two position instruments and variable doubling. Understands the principles and use of corneal topographers
		3.1.2 Understands the examination of the external eye and related structures by use of the slit lamp	Understands the features and operation of the slit lamp Understands how direct and indirect illumination can be achieved and how the eye should be logical sequence Understands the methods used for tear assessment
		3.1.3 Understands the of the fundus using either a direct indirect ophthalmoscope	Understands ophthalmoscopy and conditions required to view the fundus Understands the differences between direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy in terms of optical method of use, field of view and magnification
		3.1.4 Understands the methods of assessment of colour vision	Understands classification and description of colour vision defects, descriptions and use of the different tests available for colour vision defects
		3.1.5 Understands the instruments involved in visual field analysis the results	Understands static and kinetic perimetry and different threshold measurements Understands the different types of field analysis instruments, for example: screens, arc and bowl perimeters, automated field instruments and the Amsler chart Understands the terminology related to defective fields and how this relates to the visual pathway
		3.1.6 Understands the use of a tonometer and the results	Understands the different types of tonometry, e.g. contact and non-contact and the relative procedures Understands the diurnal variations of the results, and the implications of the results

Unit of Competency	Elements of Competence	Performance Criteria	Indicators
4. Optical Appliances The ability to dispense an appropriate optical appliance	4.1 The ability to interpret and dispense a prescription using appropriate lenses and frames or mounts.	4.1.1 Identifies anomalies in a prescription and implements the appropriate course of action	Identifies possible errors in a prescription and follows the appropriate course of action Identifies and explains any problems which may occur from the given prescription and offer example, aniseikonia, anisometropia
		4.1.2 Dispenses and advises on a wide range of lenses and frames, taking into account the patient's needs and requirements	Demonstrates correct interpretation of prescriptions Understands the following lens parameters Lens form, design, materials, coatings and tints, availability, blank sizes Demonstrates understanding of frames covering the Size, materials, relationship between frame, lenses and face Demonstrates the appropriate lens and frame selection and justification (bearing in mind lifestyle requirements)
		4.1.3 Measures and verifies appliances taking into account relevant standards where	Measures and verifies that lenses have been produced to a given prescription within BS Verifies that all aspects of the frame or mount has been correctly supplied Measures and verifies that the lenses are correctly positioned in the spectacle frame/mount tolerances
		4.1.4 Matches the form, type and positioning of lenses to meet all patient's needs and requirements and provides appropriate advice.	Provides all the necessary information for a pair of spectacles to be duplicated, to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescription • Lens type • Lens form • Centration and fitting positions • Frame details • Lens surface treatments
	4.2 The ability to advise on and dispense appropriate safety, vocational, and special optical appliances.	4.2.1 Advises on personal eye protection regulations and relevant standards, and appropriately patients on their occupational requirements.	Applies the relevant standards for: VDU users, driving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EN standards, including markings standards _ : legislation and sources Demonstrates a knowledge of visual task analysts including Understands the legal responsibilities for employees, employers, Dispensing Opticians and Understands and identifies common ocular hazards and common or sight threatening leisure and occupations and the ability to advise patients
	4.2.2 Recommends and dispenses special optical appliances where appropriate	Identifies and fits special optical appliances, explains their optical properties and features These will include sports, paediatric frames, safety, recumbent, reversible, flips, low Vision specialist lenses, occluders, trigeminal spectacles etc	

4.3 The ability to fit, adjust and repair optical appliances	4.3.1 Identifies current and frame materials and considers applies their properties when handling, adjusting, repairing and dispensing	<p>Performs appropriate adjustments to ensure a correct fit</p> <p>Recognises all frame materials from associated features and handling the frames. Knows details of the manufacturing methods and how these affect the adjustment properties material.</p> <p>Demonstrates an awareness of the dermatological effects of the materials to be able to patients accordingly</p> <p>Knows whether the frame can be re-aired and the appropriate repair method</p>
	4.3.2 Demonstrates knowledge of frame and lens manufacturing and the application of special lens treatments.	<p>Identifies the difference between glass and plastics materials and has a knowledge of the each material, manufacturing methods and associated advantages and disadvantages</p> <p>Knows the different manufacturing methods of frames to include injection moulding, routing formatio</p> <p>Knows of the different methods of tint and coating applications and the associated disadvantages of each</p>
4.4 The ability to dispense low vision aids	4.4.1 Understands conditions cause visual impairment and to dispense the most appropriate vision aid/advice	<p>Identifies which patients would benefit from low vision aids and advice</p> <p>Understands the principles of magnification, field of view and working distance in relation to aids</p> <p>Provides advice on the advantages and disadvantages of different types of simple low vision</p> <p>Understands the mechanisms of prescribing magnification including acuity reserve</p> <p>Gives correct instruction to a patient in the use of various aids, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Which specs to use with aid · Lighting required · Appropriate working distance <p>Provides basic advice on non-optical aids, use of contrast and lighting to enhance visual and daily living skills</p>
4.5 The ability to relate general anatomical features, including the development of a child's facial anatomy to the fitting of optical appliances	4.5.1 Accurately records facial measurements and dispenses the most appropriate appliance taking into account development, function and safety	<p>Takes accurate facial measurements and appreciates the implications of anatomical features these relate to the final fitting position of the appliance</p> <p>Knows about special frame features, for example, inset bridges, and handmade frames</p> <p>Appropriately advises on paediatric frame fitting, including specialist bridge and side features</p>

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5. Contact Lenses An understanding of the fitting and aftercare of patients with rigid and soft contact lenses	5.1 An understanding of the selection and fitting of the most appropriate contact lens for the planned use and clinical needs of the patient.	5.1.1 Understands contact lens types and materials, their benefits and disadvantages, and their most appropriate applications	Understands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the differences between RGP, soft and scleral contact lenses • the advantages and disadvantages of all types of contact lenses Has a knowledge of differences in contact lens materials currently used for RGP and all lenses including silicone hydrogels Understands the advantages and disadvantages of wearing contact lenses compared with Has a knowledge of other applications of contact lenses e.g. therapeutic lenses and in low vision
		5.1.2 Understands the initial lens selection and fitting of RGP soft contact lens patients	Understands, at foundation level, the typical parameters of RGP and soft lenses and their to corneal measurements Understands the shape of the normal cornea, the fitting philosophies of RGP and soft lenses, and the lens' behaviour on the eye
	5.2 Understands the patients instruction in contact lens handling, and all aspects of lens wear including care regimes	5.2.1 Understands the different methods of contact lens removal and the ability to remove the lens in an emergency, if feasible, and the ability to discuss the use of care regimes	Knows the methods of insertion and removal of RGP and soft lenses by a contact lens Understands how a suitably skilled practitioner should remove a lens in an emergency Knows the relative advantages and disadvantages of RGP and soft lens care regimes, the solutions' constituents and their purpose Understands the importance of wearing schedules and regular aftercare visits
5.2.2 Understands both the aftercare of patients wearing RGP and soft contact lenses and the management of any complications		Understands the minor issues which can arise during adaptation or that are identified at the aftercare appointment, and how these are managed Understands the signs and symptoms of serious contact lens complications such as microbial keratitis, severe corneal abrasion, or misuse of solutions, and the appropriate referral procedure	

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6. Low Vision The management of low vision patients	6.1 An understanding of the causes of low vision and their effects on vision	6.1 . 1 Considers the current refraction of patients with low visual acuity and to refer back where appropriate	<p>Understands the main causes of low vision and the effect on vision</p> <p>Checks the date of the last eye examination and when the last spectacles were dispensed and if the wearing those spectacles.</p> <p>Uses a pinhole and confirmation tests to check effectiveness and refer back if necessary</p> <p>Understands the referral procedure associated with unexplained/sudden vision loss</p> <p>Understands the criteria for visual impairment registration and referral</p>	
	6.2 The ability to assess a patient with low vision	6.2.1 Understands the of visual function, including the of specialist charts, the effects of illumination, contrast and glare	6.2.1 Understands the of visual function, including the of specialist charts, the effects of illumination, contrast and glare	<p>Knows the different types of test charts available for distance and near vision and assessment of sensitivity</p> <p>Understands the effects of lighting, contrast and glare on vision</p>
		6.2.2 Understands the of the visual field of patients with reduced vision	6.2.2 Understands the of the visual field of patients with reduced vision	<p>Understands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the need for visual field tests and the different types available · the different types of field loss e.g. hemianopia, central field loss etc
		6.2.3 Understands binocular in relation to low vision appliances	6.2.3 Understands binocular in relation to low vision appliances	Understands the indications for supplying binocular and monocular LVAs and the use of occlusion, for to combat convergence problems with high adds, suitable alignment of binocular telescopes etc
	6.3 The ability to advise on the use of and dispense appropriate low vision aids	6.3.1 Dispenses relevant optical vision aids and common types of non-optical low vision aid	6.3.1 Dispenses relevant optical vision aids and common types of non-optical low vision aid	<p>Questions the patient about their occupation, hobbies and lifestyle in order to dispense an appropriate assist the patient</p> <p>Understands the principles of magnification, field of view and working distance in relation to different</p> <p>Knows the availability of non-optical aids such as CCTV, TV reader-systems and aids for daily living, to source these aids</p> <p>Trains the patient to use the aid effectively and replace batteries and bulbs if required</p>
		6.3.2 Advises patients on illumination, glare and contrast	6.3.2 Advises patients on illumination, glare and contrast	<p>Advises patients on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the benefit of appropriate lighting in the · how to minimise different types of glare and how to improve the contrast out of doors and in environment, text type, etc can also benefit the patient · selection of appropriate tints
	6.4 The ability to advise, refer and provide aftercare to low vision patients	6.4.1 Advises patients about their impairment and its	6.4.1 Advises patients about their impairment and its	<p>Able to empathetically understand and manage the potential concerns of the patient</p> <p>Discusses with the patient their concerns in tenms that are easily understood</p> <p>Discusses the management of their impairment, referral and benefits of registration, other sources of support</p>
		6.4.2 Understands the need for multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches to low vision care	6.4.2 Understands the need for multi- and inter-disciplinary approaches to low vision care	<p>Understands the importance of a current eye examination, ophthalmological assessment!treatment</p> <p>Able to explain the process and criteria for registration and the associated benefits</p>
		6.4.3 Refers low vision patients to other agencies where appropriate	6.4.3 Refers low vision patients to other agencies where appropriate	Knows where and how to access additional support e.g. a resource centre, social services, etc
		6.4.4 Manages the aftercare of vision patients	6.4.4 Manages the aftercare of vision patients	Understands factors affecting frequency of aftercare to include: likely progress of pathology, retraining selected aids, the need for different! additional aids

Unit of Competency	Elements of Competence	Performance Criteria	Indicators
8.Ocular Abnormalities An understanding of the relevance of ocular disease	8.1 The ability to recognise conditions and symptoms requiring referral and/or emergency referral and the demonstration of the ability to take appropriate action	8.1.1 Identifies common diseases the external eye and related structures	Recognises signs and symptoms of external eye and adnexa, for example; keratitis, iritis, blepharitis, chalazion, ectropion, entropion, epicanthus, hordeolum, ptosis, stye, xanthelasma, conjunctivitis, melanoma, pinguecula, subconjunctival haemorrhage
		8.1.2 Understands symptoms associated with internal eye	Understands symptoms associated with internal eye disease such as diabetic retinopathy, vascular disorders, retinitis pigmentosa, retinal and vitreous detachment, macular example
		8.1.3 Understands the clinical treatment of a range of significant ocular diseases/disorders and conditions	Understands the surgical treatments, drug treatments and self-treatment such as hot compresses hygiene regimes, etc
		8.1.4 Understands the clinical treatment of a range of systemic diseases with ocular and adverse ocular reactions to medication	Understands treatment of a range of systemic diseases, for example, diabetes and Understands adverse ocular reactions to medication
		8.1.5 Understands the of the manifestations of eye	Understands how the disease will progress with or without treatment and the prognosis in affecting the vision and likelihood of reoccurrence Demonstrates an awareness of diet and vitamin and mineral supplements that may also be beneficial
		8.1.6 Recognises and deals with ocular emergencies	Recognises an ocular emergency and refers the patient in an appropriate manner.

Unit of Competency	Elements of Competence	Performance Criteria	Indicators
7.Refractive Management An understanding of methods of assessing vision, refraction, binocular status and visual acuity in all patients	7.1 An understanding of refractive prescribing and management decisions	7.1.1 Understands the refraction range of patients by appropriate objective and subjective means	Understands retinoscopy and end-point subjective results Understands appropriate checking methods, e.q, +1.000 blur and use of pin-hole Understands determination of addition power and appropriate range
		7.1.2 Understands the use of diagnostic drugs to aid refraction	Understands different types of ocular drugs and their purpose e.g. mydriatics, diagnostic stains etc Understands the mode of action, dosage, function and effects and the regulations and storage of ophthalmic drugs
		7.1.3 Understands the methods of refracting children, cycloplegic drugs and their effects, and understands prescribing and management decisions	Understands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the different distance and near test methods designed for children · the function and effect of cycloplegic drugs · the critical period and paediatric prescribing decisions and their purpose, e.g. onset myopia
		7.1.4 Understands refraction of patients with reduced visual acuity	Understands the testing methods involved with reduced visual acuity, for example the related terms to record low levels
		7.1.5 Understands the and management of patients presenting with heterophoria, heterotropia and amblyopia based anomalies of binocular vision, including the relevance of history and the recognition of any clinical symptoms	Understands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · signs and symptoms and causes of binocular vision anomalies · the different methods of classification e.q. cover test, pin hole etc · how the patient may be managed, e.g. surgery, prescribed prisms etc
		7.1.6 Understands the objective subjective tests necessary to investigate binocular vision status	Understands the different objective tests available to assess deviation, e.g. cover and tests Understands the different subjective tests available to assess deviation, ego fixation tests
		7.1.7 Understands likely management options related to prescribing of the appliance	Understands the options to include; vision training, refractive correction, modified correction, prismatic correction
		7.1.8 Understands the and management of patients presenting with incommittent deviations, including the of symptoms and referral advice	Understands the use of cover test and motility. Takes accurate history and symptoms - new/longstanding Understands diplopia management options - prisms, occlusion and surgery
			7.1.9 Understands diagnostic methods for patients with field defects

Unit of Com-etyency	Elements of Com-etyence	Performance Criteria	Indicators
9. Paediatric Dispensing <i>The ability to dispense an appropriate optical appliance, taking into account the development of anatomical features</i>	9.1 The ability to communicate effectively with the child and their carer	9.1.1 Directs communication to the child in appropriate language and manner	Understands the view of a child and elicits information on their preferences Engages the child in discussions and decisions relating to the dispensing Uses appropriate supporting material to aid understanding
		9.1.2 Discusses with the carer appropriate the factors influencing dispensing	Conveys expert knowledge in an understandable and informative way Establishes and maintains a good professional and clinical relationship Explores patient concerns and provide explanation and reassurance where appropriate Aware of implications in discussing factors with a carer
	9.2 An understanding of paediatric refractive prescribing and management decisions	9.2.1 Understands the methods of refracting children and prescribing decisions	Understands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the different distance and near test methods designed for children • the function and effect of cycloplegic drugs • the critical period. paediatric prescribing decisions and their purpose. e.g. onset myopia
		9.2.2 Understands the investigation and management of children presenting with anomalies of binocular vision	Understands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signs and symptoms and causes of binocular vision anomalies • how the condition may be managed. e.g. occlusion. prescribed prisms etc
	9.3 The ability to advise on and measure for the most appropriate paediatric frames	9.3.1 Takes accurate facial measurements	<i>Takes accurate pupillary distance using a range of methods appropriate to age and fixation ability</i> <i>Takes accurate facial measurements and appreciates the Implications of anatomical features and how these relate to the final fitting of the appliance</i> <i>Appreciates the difference in features for children from different nationalities. or those</i>
		<i>9.3.2 Understands changes in measurements as the facial features develop</i>	<i>conditions such as Down's Syndrome</i> <i>Explains the development expected as a child grows and how this affects facial measurements and frame fitting</i> <i>Conveys the Importance of frame function In terms of comfort fit. position and safety</i>
		<i>9.3.3 Advises on appropriate frames and availability of special features</i>	<i>Accurately records frame details. adjustments and appropriate measurements</i> <i>Fits specialist frame ports where appropriate such as specialist bridge and side</i>
		<i>9.4.1 Advises on lens choice with</i>	<i>Advises an frame shape. size and position with consideration to the prescription and cosmesis</i>

	9.4 The ability to advise and measure for the most appropriate lens choice	emphasis on safety, comfort and cosmesis	<i>Demonstrates appropriate advice for a wide range of prescriptions in terms of materials deemed high impact resistance, such as polycarbonate Considers the weight of the finished lens and any improvements that can be made to overall comfort, such as reduced aperture or aspheric forms Explains how cosmesis may be improved by ordering certain manufacturing such as minimum substance surfacing or altering the form of the lens</i>
		9.4.2 Measures for lens positioning	<i>Accurately measures for lens centration, vertical and horizontal optical centre positioning Considers the pantoscopic angle and vertex distance to ensure a close fit that is not inappropriate contact with the face</i>
	9.5 The ability to fit, adjust and repair paediatric optical appliances	9.5. 1 Fits the appliance and has the ability to adjust and repair the appliance	<i>Ensures the spectacles are a comfortable fit and the child is looking through the portion of the lens Explains the importance of maintaining a good fit and is able to adjust and repair where necessary Advises the child and carer on how to care for the spectacles</i>

