CARDIFF UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL CAERDYDD

School of Optometry and Vision Sciences
Ysgol Optometreg a Gwyddorau'r Golwg

LOCSU/WOPEC courses to support the delivery of primary eye care services

Excellence in Education for Eye Care Professionals

LOCSU

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

LOCSU/WOPEC training courses are designed to support the delivery of primary eye care services in local areas across England.

A selection of courses are available: Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS); Glaucoma; Pre and Post-Operative Cataract; Low Vision; Learning Disabilities; Paediatrics; MOLES; Maculopathy; Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine Retinopathy Monitoring. All courses comprise WOPEC distance learning lectures with multiple choice questions (MCQ), the content is peer reviewed, lectures are GOC CPD approved, and on completion an individualised WOPEC certificate in pdf format is issued.

The Local Optical Committee Support Unit (LOCSU)

LOCSU provides high-quality, practical support to LOCs in England to help them to develop, negotiate and implement their local objectives in respect of extended primary eye care services. It has commissioned WOPEC to develop training and accreditation to support this development.

LOCSU

Wales Optometry Postgraduate Education Centre (WOPEC)

WOPEC remains the only dedicated optometry postgraduate education centre in the world and is based in Cardiff University's School of Optometry and Vision Sciences. WOPEC is recognised as a centre of excellence for teaching and research across the world and is committed to maintaining an outstanding learning experience for all students.

WOPEC

WOPEC has over 19,000 eye care professional learners. It provides a dedicated facility for education and training for optometrists, other eye care practitioners and allied health professionals to produce a workforce of professionals who are able to deliver the highest quality of care to their patients. WOPEC offers a wide range of postgraduate taught courses for eye care professionals in the UK and internationally.

Minor Eye Conditions Service Pathway (MECS)

MECS accredited practitioners will be able to provide a prompt assessment of a patient presenting with an acute eye condition. As many patients as possible will have their management maintained within the primary care setting, thus avoiding unnecessary referrals to hospital services. Where referral to secondary care is required it will be to a suitable specialist with appropriate urgency.

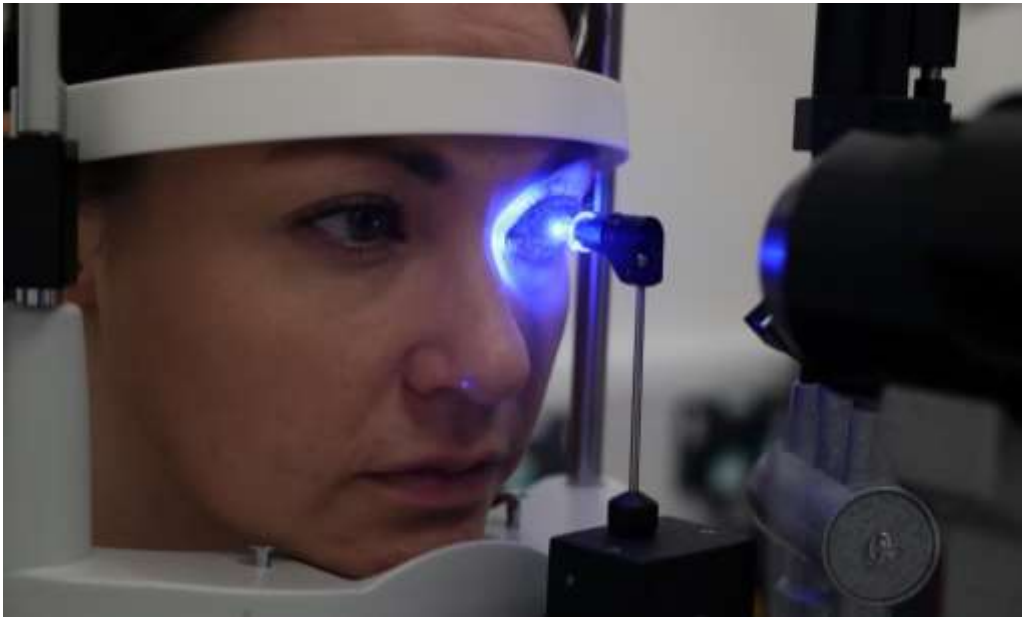
There are two parts to MECS training and accreditation. Part 1 is online distance learning with Part 2 station-based practical assessment and learning. Part 1 must be completed before Part 2 can be undertaken. Foreign body removal training can be offered as an extra.

MECS Part 1: Distance learning – CPD accredited

Optometrists need to complete a course of seven online theoretical training lectures and MCQs covering the following topics: Red eye; Flashes and floaters; Age-related macular degeneration Parts 1 and 2; Cornea and corneal foreign bodies; Sudden loss of vision; Dry eye in optometric practice.

MECS Part 2: Practical Station Assessments

WOPEC can work with LOCs, PECs, and commissioning bodies to organise a practical assessment consisting of five stations designed to assess referral, communication, clinical decision making and slit lamp Volk BIO.



Glaucoma

This course provides the optometrist with training on glaucoma repeat measurement and ocular hypertension (OHT) monitoring which is in line with NICE guidelines. It has been peer reviewed by the NICE guideline development group.

There are two parts to Glaucoma training and accreditation. Part 1 must be completed before Part 2 can be undertaken.

Glaucoma Part 1: Distance learning - CPD accredited

Optometrists need to complete a course of online theoretical training lectures and MCQs. There are four lectures and a video: Glaucoma and the optic disc assessment; IOP and tonometry; Visual fields and glaucoma; NICE guidelines and practical techniques video demonstrating methods used to examine patients suspected of having OHT and/or glaucoma.

Glaucoma Part 2: Practical Station Assessments

WOPEC can work with LOCs and commissioning bodies to organise a practical assessment that consists of five stations designed to assess; calibration of a Goldmann applanation tonometer, van Herick's technique, Goldmann applanation tonometry, the use of Volk BIO and a glaucoma case study.

Pre- and Post-Operative Cataract

Practitioners will be enabled to inform and manage their patients presenting with cataract within the primary care setting and reduce the number of patient visits to secondary care.

The Pre- and Post-Operative Cataract course comprises online theoretical training lectures and MCQs, a visual recognition (VRICS) test and a video following a cataract patient journey in hospital. Lectures cover the following topics: Types and grading of cataract; Pre-operative assessment and considerations and Complications of cataract surgery. All are CPD accredited.

Low Vision

Low Vision accredited practitioners can give patients with sight loss quicker access to a high quality specialist assessment, a supply of low vision and daily living aids, support closer to home.

This comprises a course of ten, CPD accredited online theoretical training lectures and MCQs. It is open to optometrists and dispensing opticians.

The lectures cover pathology, assessment of visual function, low vision needs, magnifiers, and low vision solutions.

WOPEC can work with local areas and commissioning bodies to deliver practical training and assessment.

Eyecare Services for People with a Learning Disability

People with learning disabilities are much more likely to have eye and vision problems than members of the general population, but they find accessing eye care more difficult because of a range of barriers, including a lack of confidence among clinicians on how to adapt their practice to meet the needs of this patient group.

This distance learning online training package contains lectures and MCQs compiled by people with many years of experience in the field. It provides an insight into how learning disability and learning disability is defined, how practice can be adapted and how barriers to service provision, both clinical and non-clinical, can be overcome.

Six lectures are CPD accredited and comprise: An introduction to learning disabilities; Making services accessible for people with a learning disability; Prevalence of eye problems in people with a learning disability; Adapting the optometric assessment for people with a learning disability; Adapting dispensing practice when working with people with a learning disability; Reporting and referring.

Optometrists, dispensing opticians, and any healthcare professional can access the course.

Paediatrics

The aim of the course is to provide community and hospital based practitioners with knowledge and skills to provide a high standard of eye care to children of all ages. It includes topics covering assessment, screening, referral and treatment pathways, with an emphasis on the importance of good communication with children and young people, their parents/ carers and with other professionals.

The course comprises five, CPD accredited online theoretical training lectures with MCQs: Refractive development, and distribution of refractive errors throughout childhood; Assessment of refractive error and prescribing for children; Tests and techniques for assessing vision in children and expected values; Vision screening in childhood; Assessment of ocular health and common defects in childhood.

There are also four key feature scenarios. It is available to optometrists and dispensing opticians.

Maculopathy

This lecture series is designed to complement the LOCSU Maculopathy Referral Filtering and Monitoring pathway. The aim of the series is to build on existing knowledge of maculopathy with an emphasis on monitoring in primary care, referral and treatment pathways and optical coherence tomography (OCT) interpretation.

The series aims to improve the efficiency and accuracy of case-finding for AMD. For both new and review (wet active) AMD patients, and so improve the speed at which people are diagnosed and treated within the hospital eye service, to help prevent loss of sight, as well as people with a diagnosis of late AMD who require regular monitoring in primary care practice.

The course has been created and peer reviewed to ensure it is realistic for, and relevant to, primary eye care practice.

Optometrists will undertake a CPD approved course of online lectures with MCQs. The titles of the 5 lectures are: Anatomy and physiology of the retina and choroid; An introduction to retinal imaging; Key features of maculopathy; AMD - recognition, classification, and management; Maculopathy case scenarios.

Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine Retinopathy Monitoring

This lecture series is designed to complement the LOCSU pathway for people who are taking either Hydroxychloroquine or Chloroquine and require monitoring for retinopathy. Resources have been developed to align with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists recommendations.

The aim of this series is to build on existing knowledge of Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine retinopathy with an emphasis on monitoring in primary care. The LOCSU integrated service delivery model is introduced which outlines how monitoring for retinopathy can be delivered, in alignment with the RCOphth Guideline, within an optical practice.

The series aims to improve the efficiency and accuracy of case-finding for Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine retinopathy, and so improve the speed at which people are diagnosed and referred for treatment to prevent loss of sight.

The series is delivered via 2 interactive lectures:

Hydroxychloroquine: Background, Uses and Side Effects
Hydroxychloroquine: Retinopathy Monitoring and Treatment

Both lectures with MCQ are CPD approved for Optometrists, each 1 non-interactive point.

MOLES

This lecture 'Assessment and management of fundus lesions: the MOLES system' is designed to complement the LOCSU Naevus Referral Filtering & Monitoring pathway.

The aim is to support the early identification of choroidal melanoma by helping optometrists estimate the likelihood of malignancy in melanocytic choroidal tumours using the MOLES scoring system, to know how to use the LOSCU pathway and to be confident to expedite referral of patients with melanoma.

A single, interactive lecture with eleven case examples to work through and test yourself, MCQ, and CPD approved for Optometrists with 1 non-interactive point.

Who is eligible to do these courses?

LOCSU has funded the development of these training packages for optometrists and dispensing opticians in England whose LOC contributes to the LOCSU levy.

How much do the LOCSU/WOPEC courses cost?

The distance learning element of the courses is available free of charge. If there is a practical element or an accreditation there is an additional charge. Please contact us for information.

How are the course accessed?

Practitioners wishing to undertake a course should contact their LOC for the relevant access code. These codes can be entered into the 'PROMO CODE' section of the WOPEC website's homepage. Learning materials will then be available on the practitioner's account dashboard.

What next?

Our postgraduate programme of study at Cardiff University has been developed specifically with professionals in mind, providing an opportunity to achieve higher qualifications that will broaden your knowledge which can be used in your day to day work. This programme is part-time, using an efficient combination of convenient distance learning and 'hands-on' skills training. You can study a module at a time or work towards a Certificate, Diploma or masters (MSc). Many modules are accredited by the College of Optometrists for higher professional qualifications, and most are GOC CPD approved.
https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/optometry-vision-sciences/courses/postgraduate-taught

Please contact us for more information:

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