

## **Outline curriculum for a training programme to prepare optometrists to sell, supply or write written (signed) orders for drugs at Additional Supply (Exemption Level 2) Level.**

### **1. Aim**

To prepare optometrists to sell, supply or write written orders for drugs at Additional Supply (Exemption Level 2) Level and to meet the standards set by the General Optical Council for entry to specialist registers.

### **2. Learning outcomes**

Following completion of the appropriate training optometrists should be able to demonstrate:

- [a] an ability to take a comprehensive medical history and examine the eye using appropriate instrumentation and clinical techniques
- [b] knowledge of the pathophysiology, clinical features and natural course of the conditions being treated
- [c] an ability to identify the nature and severity of the presenting condition and generate an appropriate management plan
- [d] an ability to monitor the response to treatment and modify the management plan or refer if necessary
- [e] an ability to critically apply knowledge of pharmacology to prescribing practice
- [f] an ability to critically evaluate sources of information, advice and decision support in prescribing practice, taking into account current evidence based practice
- [g] knowledge of the indications, cautions, interactions and contraindications of ophthalmic medicines
- [h] an awareness of own limitations and an ability to practise within a framework of professional accountability and responsibility
- [i] an understanding of the legal basis of the use and supply of Additional Supply (Exemptions Level 2) medicines
- [j] a reflective approach in the review and development of prescribing practice

### **3. Indicative content**

- [a] Clinical and pharmaceutical knowledge
  - Anatomy and physiology of the eye and adnexae
  - General and ocular immunology
  - General and ocular microbiology
  - Principles of pharmacology
    - Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics
    - Drug design, formulation and delivery
    - Physiological/pathological alterations in drug response e.g. age, ethnicity, pregnancy, co-morbidity
  - Disorders of the anterior eye
    - Pathogenesis, clinical features, management
  - Ocular pharmacology and therapeutics
    - Indications, dose, precautions, contraindications, interactions

- [b] History taking, examination techniques and methods of monitoring
  - History taking
    - Presenting symptoms
    - Medical and medication history
  - Methods of ocular examination
    - Equipment and techniques
    - Development of a clinical management plan
    - Monitoring compliance and response to treatment
    - Knowledge of natural history and clinical profile of conditions being treated
    - Identifying and reporting adverse drug reactions
    - Knowledge of own limitations and criteria for referral
  
- [c] Evidence based practice and clinical governance in relation to prescribing
  - Principles of evidence based practice and critical appraisal skills
  - Auditing, monitoring and evaluating prescribing practice
  - Clinical governance
  - Risk assessment and risk management
  
- [d] Legal basis of prescribing
  - Drug legislation
  - Drug licensing
  - Exemptions to the Medicines Act
  - Prescription writing
  
- [e] Prescribing safely and professionally
  - Sources of drug information
    - Record keeping
    - Medication errors
  - Influences on prescribing practice
    - Patient confidentiality and data protection
  - Professional codes of practice
    - Public health policy e.g. antimicrobial use and resistance
    - Inappropriate prescribing and misuse of medicines
  - Reflective practice

*Note to Providers: Details of requirement for Practice-based Learning; assessment, duration & academic level of training given in Sections 2 & 3*