General Optical Council

Requirements for GOC Approved Peer Review Activities

Aim

At least once per cycle every Registrant comes into contact with a small group of peers. This interaction should use case records to enable practitioners to reflect on their own and others clinical and ethical decision making and record keeping.

Who does it apply to?

Participation will be a mandatory requirement for optometrists, contact lens opticians and therapeutics specialists. Dispensing opticians are encouraged to participate but it will not be a mandatory requirement for this group.

Challenge vs Judgement

This is not an activity where one individual makes or offers a judgement on the decision making and record keeping of another individual. It is a constructive discussion that will lead registrants to reflect on their practice and the practice of others.

Real or Example Case Records

Those in clinical practise are encouraged to use their own genuine cases and patient records however this is not a requirement. Example case records can be used which will ensure those registrants not in clinical practise can also benefit from these sessions. Where real cases are used practitioners must be careful to protect patient confidentiality.

A bank of example cases will be available as part of the GOC Peer Review Toolkit.

Reflection

When accepting Peer Review points on CETOptics, the Registrant will be asked to enter a reflection statement based on their learning from the review session. CET points will only be granted once the reflection statement is provided.

Approved Methods of Peer Review

For all approved methods of Peer Review it is recommended groups sizes do not exceed 10 registrants with best practice being groups of 6-8 registrants. Groups can be made up of the same or mixed registrants groups.

A Peer Review Group – This is the existing method which is allows each participant to bring their own case for discussion. A group leader will register the group, ensure participants are aware of the discussion topic, ensure that sufficient appropriate cases are available and that the discussion enables participants to make a link to their own practice and are able to complete a reflection statement.

A Peer Discussion Event – This option involves structured case-based discussion with peers in the same room using example cases, with discussion supported by a facilitator. The facilitator will ensure each individual fully

participates, that the discussion enables participants to make a link to their own practice and are able to complete a reflection statement.

This method can be delivered as part of a larger event where the discussion topic is presented to the larger group, after which delegates split into smaller break out groups of up to 10 participants for case based discussion. Each break out group must have its own facilitator. The event organiser will be responsible for ensuring sufficient appropriate cases are available.

A Virtual Peer Discussion Event – This option involves a structured case based discussion using example or real cases with up to 10 Peers at different locations. The group meets online using real-time audio and video services organised by an approved provider trained in the use of the necessary technology. The Provider will appoint a facilitator who will ensure each individual fully participates, sufficient cases are available and that the discussion enables participants to make a link to their own practice and to be able to complete a reflection statement.

This method will be available to those registrants who apply to the GOC and can demonstrate that their exceptional circumstances will prevent them from physically attending a peer review event.

Approval Process

From next cycle the process for obtaining CET approval will be simplified.

In advance the group leader or event organiser will only be required to register details of the event such as date, location, list of delegates and topic(s) for discussion. The group leader or organiser will take responsibility for ensuring the criteria for peer discussion such as group size and required learning outcomes will be met.

After the event the group leader will have responsibility for registering the learning outcomes met and individual delegates will be required to submit their reflection statements within their own CETOptics account. Points will only be assigned when the GOC is satisfied that the learning outcomes have been met and all participants have submitted their reflection statement.