

**BEFORE THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE  
OF THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**IO(19)10**

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**FOURTH INTERIM ORDER REVIEW  
DETERMINATION SUMMARY  
12 JUNE 2020**

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**PRIVATE HEARING**

**Name of Registrant:** Mr Ajay Patel

**Registration number:** 01-17351

**Professional status:** Optometrist

**Type and length of interim order:** The Fitness to Practise Committee imposed an interim order of suspension on 21 February 2019. This was further maintained on 8 August 2019 and 17 January 2020.

On 24 March 2020 the Fitness to Practise Committee determined to vary the Interim Suspension Order to Interim Conditional Registration Order. On 12 June 2020 the Fitness to Practise Committee maintained the conditional registration order.

The order will be further reviewed within 6 months from today unless all matters are resolved within that time, or earlier should new evidence be made available, or if the registrant, at any time after three months from today's date, requests an early review.

**ORDER:**

The Registrar is directed to annotate the GOC Register to show that from the date that this Order takes effect you, Ajay Patel, must comply with the following conditions of practice:

1. You must inform the following parties, within two weeks of the date this order takes effect, that your registration is subject to conditions:
  - a. any organisation or person employing or contracting with you to provide paid or unpaid optical services, whether or not in the UK (to include any locum agency);
  - b. any prospective employer or contractor where you have applied

- to provide optical services, whether or not in the UK;
  - c. Chairman of the Local Optometric Committee for the area where you provide optometric services; and
  - d. The NHS body in whose ophthalmic performer or contractor list you are included or are seeking inclusion.
2. You must inform the GOC if:
- a. you accept any paid or unpaid employment or contract, whether or not in the UK, to provide optical services;
  - b. you apply for any paid or unpaid employment or contract to provide optical services outside the UK; or
  - c. you cease working.
  - d. This information must include the contact details of your prospective employer/ contractor and (if the role includes providing NHS ophthalmic services) the relevant NHS body.
3. You must:
- a. Identify a workplace supervisor who would be prepared to monitor your compliance with each these conditions.
  - b. Ask the GOC to approve your workplace supervisor, within four weeks of the date this order takes effect. If you are not employed, you must ask the GOC to approve your workplace supervisor before you start work.
  - c. Identify another supervisor if the GOC does not agree to your being monitored by the proposed supervisor.
  - d. Place yourself under the supervision of the supervisor and remain under his/her supervision for the duration of these conditions.
  - e. Inform the GOC of any proposed change to your supervisor and again place yourself under the supervision of someone who has been agreed by the GOC, should there be a change to your supervisor.
4. You must inform the GOC within 14 days if you become aware of any criminal investigation or formal disciplinary investigation against you.
5. You must continue to comply with all legal and professional

requirements of registration with the GOC. A review hearing will be arranged at the earliest opportunity if you fail to:

- i. fulfil all CET requirements; or
- ii. renew your registration annually.

6. The Registrant is required to draft, maintain and action his personal development plan, focussing specifically on his alleged clinical shortcomings in respect of identification and management of Keratoconus and submit updates on his progress to the GOC once every two months.
7. During any period that the Registrant is working as an optometrist, the Registrant is remotely supervised and:
  - a. The Registrant submits a random selection of 15 records to the supervisor for review every two months including;
    - i. All of his Keratoconus patients (up to a maximum of five), regardless of decision to monitor or refer;
    - ii. Any patients presenting with increasing astigmatism who either have a reduced Visual Acuity ('VA') or require an earlier recall;
    - iii. Any patients with reduced VA where a decision has been made not to refer.
  - b. The supervisor and registrant meet (in person or remotely by telephone) to discuss these records and any concerns;
  - c. The supervisor prepares a report recording his findings on the matter in 7a and 7b above and submits this to the GOC once every two months.