



August 2015 First Published 2005

A Global Competency-Based Model of Scope of Practice in Optometry



Edited by

Patricia M Kiely
BSc(Optom) PhD
Optometry Australia

Robert Chappell
OBE MPhil DSc FCOptom
Chairman Legislative, Registration
and Standards Committee
World Council of Optometry



Contents

Introduction	3
Background	4
The Model Framework	5
References	6
Units and Elements in the Competency Model Assuring the Quality and Standards of Optometric	7
Education and Competence Assessment	8
Unit 1 Professional And Clinical Responsibilities	9
Unit 2 Communication And Patient History	25
Unit 3 Patient Examination	30
Unit 4 Diagnosis And Management	40
Unit 5 Health Information Management	66
Appendix A	69
Appendix B	69
Appendix C	71

Introduction



In 2005, the General Delegates Meeting of the World Council of Optometry (WCO) formally adopted the Global Competency-Based Model of Scope of Practice in Optometry.¹ This model had been designed to provide a rational framework for addressing the challenges of increased practitioner mobility across international borders and the need to promote greater harmonisation of optometric education around the world.

The model used as its basis the then current version of entry-level competency standards developed by Optometrists Association Australia (now Optometry Australia).²

In 2014, Dr Kiely was commissioned by WCO to review the document using the competency standards from the *Optometry Australia Entry-level Competency Standards for Optometry 2014*³ again addressing the four scopes of practice previously described. This review reflects the changes in education and scope of practice since 2005 and the decision of WCO to define the minimum

competencies required for a person to call themselves an optometrist. The resulting document was circulated to the Education and the Legislation, Registration and Standards Committees of the WCO for review and comments, which were incorporated into the attached document.

The document assigns the slightly modified Australian competencies to the four scopes of practice described by the WCO in its document *A Global Competency-Based Model of Scope of Practice in Optometry*. (The major alteration to the Australian competencies was the removal of country specific references.)

It should be noted that the document does not address the scope of practice of optometrists in some states of the USA and elsewhere where minor surgical techniques, administration of injections and so on may be undertaken; this level of practice would be considered as Level 5 and determination of competencies associated with Level 5 will be considered in the future.



Background

In approaching the development of a global model, the Committee recognised the importance of the WCO Concept of Optometry statement as the basis for a global competency-based model of scope of practice in optometry. Developed in 1992, and approved by the WCO in 1993, this valuable, unifying statement about the profession is accepted by all member associations of WCO. It recognises the historical development of optometry and the cultural and legislative differences in the optometric scope of practice around the world. Moreover, It reflects optometrists' commitment to achieving appropriate patient care outcomes aimed at maintaining and improving their patients' quality of life.

The WCO Concept of Optometry statement is:

Optometry is a healthcare profession that is autonomous, educated and regulated (licensed/registered), and optometrists are the primary healthcare practitioners of the eye and visual system who provide comprehensive eye and vision care, which includes refraction and dispensing, detection/diagnosis and management of disease in the eye, and the rehabilitation of conditions of the visual system.

In addition, the Global Model now includes recognition of the decision of the Governing Board of WCO to adopt the broad competencies of dispensing, refracting, prescribing and the detection of disease/abnormality as being the minimum required for individuals to call themselves an optometrist.

It is recognised that a wide variation in the scope of practice and levels of education of optometrists exists throughout the world, and that any system adopted should be able to address this diversity even in the face of internal or external political opposition to the concept of practitioner mobility across country borders. It is also recognised that the ultimate decision for a mutual recognition agreement will be between two sovereign countries (or legal jurisdictions), and that the existence of a pragmatic model to aid in this mutual recognition will

benefit everyone – regulators, professional associations, educational institutions and the public.

The model should be used in conjunction with the WCO's publication, *Why Optometry?*, which describes the global public health challenges and optometry's role in primary care, its educational underpinnings, and its integral role in inter-professional relations and research. It emphasises the responsibilities of primary care optometry in prevention, health education, health promotion, health maintenance, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation, counselling, and interdisciplinary consultation. Its purpose is to provide health professionals, government agencies and the general public with an overview of the practice activities of the optometrist and how they relate to the global needs of the public. It recognises the fact that, although the scope of practice of optometry may vary from country to country due to different regulations, today's optometrists are educated and trained to provide the full range of services thereby enhancing vision and protecting health.

Thus, the Global Competency-Based Model will help regulatory bodies assure practitioner competence as part of their responsibility to protect the public when faced with future migration of optometrists across jurisdictional borders. It will also act as stimulus for creating greater uniformity in optometric practice worldwide by being applied to teaching syllabi and statutory definitions of scope of practice.



The Model Framework

In response to the globalisation of health professions, the World Council of Optometry (WCO) has developed the following Global Competency-Based Model of Scope of Practice in Optometry to assist states and countries around the world to reconcile the variations in the scope of optometric practice internationally. This competency model includes four categories of services which also provide a vertical career ladder for individuals seeking to expand their scope of clinical responsibility. As such, each category requires a set of competencies which includes the previous category.

The four categories of scopes of practice covered in this document are:

1. Optical Technology Services

Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system.

2. Visual Function Services

Optical Technology Services plus

Investigation, examination, measurement, recognition and correction/management of defects of the visual system (note: practitioners at Level 2 are considered to be optometrists).

3. Ocular Diagnostic Services

Optical Technology Services plus

Visual Function Services plus

Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease

4. Ocular Therapeutic Services

Optical Technology Services plus

Visual Function Services plus

Ocular Diagnostic Services plus

Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease.

Components in the standards

Unlike the document *A Global Competency-Based Model of Scope of Practice in Optometry*, the current document now includes 'indicators' and thus contains all of the parameters described in the Australian document:³

Units: groupings of major professional practice tasks or activities to describe practice; main categories under which competency standards are listed.³ (There are five Units in the following material).

Elements (sometimes referred to as competencies): lowest identifiable logical and discrete sub-grouping of skills and knowledge contributing to a unit of practice; significant actions that are important contributions to performance within a unit.³

Performance criteria: accompany elements and are evaluative statements that specify the minimum level or standard of performance; can be used in assessing competence to determine whether a person performs to the level required. (These are assigned a number in the form 1.1.3, 2.1.1 etc.).³

Indicators: assist in the interpretation of the performance criteria by providing examples of knowledge, skills and attributes that a professional needs to be competent; can be measurable and/or observable; useful for determining whether aspects of competence have been achieved; not intended to be exhaustive or complete and assessors are expected to supplement them as needed. Assessors will always need to exercise informed professional judgment in choosing the indicators that suit the particular context.³

The use of => in a column indicates that the material from the previous column is repeated.



References

1. *A Global Competency-Based Model of Scope of Practice in Optometry*. www.worldoptometry.org/filemanager/root/site_assets/governance_documents/global_competencies_model.pdf
2. Kiely P, Horton P, Chakman J. *Competency Standards For Entry Level To The Profession Of Optometry 1997* Clin Exp Optom 1998; 81: 210-221.
3. Kiely PM, Slater J. *Optometry Australia Entry-level Competency Standards for Optometry 2014*. Clin Exp Optom 2015; 98: 65–89

Units and Elements in the Competency Model

The units and the elements in each category define the professional responsibilities and functions of the primary care optometrist. The following listing thus becomes the foundation for the Model.

Unit 1 – Professional and Clinical Responsibilities

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Element 1.1 | Maintains, develops and audits optometric knowledge, clinical expertise and skills |
| Element 1.2 | Adopts an evidence-based approach as the foundation for making clinical decisions |
| Element 1.3 | Practices independently |
| Element 1.4 | Acts in accordance with the standards of ethical behaviour of the profession |
| Element 1.5 | Communicates appropriate advice and information |
| Element 1.6 | Uses resources from optometric and other organisations to enhance patient care |
| Element 1.7 | Understands the general principles of the development and maintenance of an optometric practice |
| Element 1.8 | Understands the legal and other obligations involved in optometric practice |
| Element 1.9 | Provides for the care of patients with a diverse range of requirements and needs |
| Element 1.10 | Provides or directs patients to emergency care |
| Element 1.11 | Promotes issues of eye and vision care and general health to the community |
| Element 1.12 | Understands factors affecting the community's need for optometric services |

Unit 2 – Communication and Patient History

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Element 2.1 | Communicates with the patient |
|-------------|-------------------------------|



Units and Elements in the Competency Model *(continued)*

- Element 2.2 Makes general observations of the patient
- Element 2.3 Obtains the case history
- Element 2.4 Obtains informed patient consent
- Element 2.5 Obtains, interprets and takes account of patient information from sources other than the patient

Unit 3 – Patient Examination

- Element 3.1 Formulates and examination plan
- Element 3.2 Implements examination plan
- Element 3.3 Assesses the ocular adnexae and the eye
- Element 3.4 Assesses central and peripheral sensory visual function and the integrity of the visual pathways
- Element 3.5 Assesses refractive status
- Element 3.6 Assesses oculomotor and binocular function
- Element 3.7 Assesses visual information processing
- Element 3.8 Assesses signs and symptoms found during the ocular examination that have significance for the patient's systemic health

Unit 4 – Diagnosis and Management

- Element 4.1 Establishes a diagnosis or diagnoses
- Element 4.2 Evaluates the expected prognosis of the condition
- Element 4.3 Assesses the significance of signs and symptoms found during the ocular examination in relation to the patient health and well being

- Element 4.4 Designs a management plan in consultation with the patient and implements the agreed plan
- Element 4.5 Prescribes spectacles
- Element 4.6 Dispenses spectacle prescriptions accurately
- Element 4.7 Prescribes contact lenses
- Element 4.8 Prescribes low vision devices
- Element 4.9 Prescribes pharmacological and other regimens to treat ocular disease and injury
- Element 4.10 Manages patients requiring vision therapy
- Element 4.11 Refers patients and receives patient referrals
- Element 4.12 Provides legal certification
- Element 4.13 Co-operates with ophthalmologist/s in the provision of pre- and post operative management of patients
- Element 4.14 Provides advice on vision, eye health and safety in the workplace and recreational settings
- Element 4.15 Participates in general public health programmes

Unit 5 – Health Information Management

- Element 5.1 Records patient information and data in a legible, secure, accessible, permanent and unambiguous manner
- Element 5.2 Maintains confidentiality of patient records
- Element 5.3 Meets legislative requirements regarding retention and destruction of patient records and other practice documentation



Assuring the Quality and Standards of Optometric Education and Competence Assessment

The Global Competency-Based Model does not address directly the quality and standards of optometric education and the quality and standards of the assessment of competence. It is quite possible that country “A” could argue that a practitioner from that country who has completed a prescribed course of study and passed certain examinations has the same competence as an optometrist of country “B”, based solely on the evaluation of curricula and transcripts of education and assessment against the model. However, there would be no guarantee from such a paper analysis using this model that the optometrist from country “A” was educated to the same level as the optometrist from country “B”; and, similarly, that the quality of the assessment of the individual competence of the optometrist from country “A” was as rigorous as that of the optometrist from country “B”.

It is recognised that for this global model to have credibility when operational, a mechanism has to be developed and implemented to assure that the quality of education and assessment for each competency statement meets certain standards to assure global equivalency. These services can be in the form of consultation between such entities as educational institutions, regulatory groups, and ministries of education and health. The Accreditation scheme of the European Council of Optometry and Optics is a model that has been developed for use within the European Union, www.ecoo.info/european-diploma/information-for-institutions.



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 1.1: Maintains, develops and audits optometric knowledge, clinical expertise and skills			
<p>OT 1.1.1 Knowledge, equipment and clinical skills are maintained and developed. Indicators: Understanding of the need to have access to appropriate equipment.</p>	<p>VF 1.1.1 Optometric knowledge, equipment and clinical skills are maintained and developed. Indicators: Understanding of the need to have access to appropriate equipment.</p>	<p>ODx 1.1.1 Optometric knowledge, equipment and clinical skills are maintained and developed. Indicators: Understanding of the need to have access to appropriate equipment. Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to expand and update skills and knowledge for safe and evidence-based practice through adoption of a lifelong approach to learning access information and resources related to clinical questions, such as recent publications, journal articles and library materials (including textbooks and electronic media, seminar and conference proceedings, internet and computer materials, online databases). <p>Recognition of the need for continuing professional development. Adherence to continuing professional development requirements of relevant registration authority.</p>	<p>OTx 1.1.1 Optometric knowledge, equipment and clinical skills are maintained and developed. Indicators: Understanding of the need to have access to appropriate equipment. Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to expand and update skills and knowledge for safe and evidence-based practice through adoption of a lifelong approach to learning access information and resources related to clinical questions, such as recent publications, journal articles and library materials (including textbooks and electronic media, seminar and conference proceedings, internet and computer materials, online databases). <p>Recognition of the need for continuing professional development. Adherence to continuing professional development requirements of relevant registration authority.</p>
<p>OT 1.1.2 Developments in optical dispensing are critically appraised and evaluated for their efficacy and relevance. Indicators: Recognition of when it is necessary to seek expert opinion.</p>	<p>VF 1.1.2 Developments in clinical theory, optometric techniques and technology and optical dispensing are critically appraised and evaluated for their efficacy and relevance to clinical practice. Indicators: Recognition of when it is necessary to seek expert opinion.</p>	<p>ODx 1.1.2 Developments in clinical theory, optometric techniques and technology and optical dispensing are critically appraised and evaluated for their efficacy and relevance to clinical practice. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform a targeted search of the literature to systematically retrieve information relevant to a clinical question critically evaluate statistical methods and the scientific basis of research evidence for newly developed and existing clinical procedures, techniques and therapies audit data to benchmark practice, identify development areas and plan appropriate learning activities. <p>Recognition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> situations where evidence is lacking and how such situations should be addressed when it is necessary to seek expert opinion. 	<p>OTx 1.1.2 Developments in clinical theory, optometric techniques and technology and optical dispensing are critically appraised and evaluated for their efficacy and relevance to clinical practice. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform a targeted search of the literature to systematically retrieve information relevant to a clinical question critically evaluate statistical methods and the scientific basis of research evidence for newly developed and existing clinical procedures, techniques and therapies audit data to benchmark practice, identify development areas and plan appropriate learning activities. <p>Recognition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> situations where evidence is lacking and how such situations should be addressed when it is necessary to seek expert opinion.



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 1.1: Maintains, develops and audits optometric knowledge, clinical expertise and skills (continued)

<p>OT 1.1.3 Newly developed and existing procedures and techniques are applied and adapted to improve patient care. Indicators: Understanding of the advantages, disadvantages and limitations of procedures and techniques.</p>	<p>VF 1.1.3 Newly developed and existing clinical procedures and techniques are applied and adapted to improve patient care. Indicators: Understanding of the advantages, disadvantages and limitations of clinical procedures and techniques.</p>	<p>ODx 1.1.3 Newly developed and existing clinical procedures and techniques are applied and adapted to improve patient care. Indicators: Understanding of the advantages, disadvantages and limitations of clinical procedures and techniques and the relevance of results of these procedures to clinical decision making. Ability to make evidence-based decisions that consider the level and quality of evidence, when deciding whether to incorporate new or existing clinical procedures, techniques and therapies into practice.</p>	
--	--	---	--

Element 1.2: Adopts an evidence-based practice approach as the foundation for making clinical decisions

		<p>ODx 1.2.1 Clinical expertise is integrated with the best available evidence, the patient's perspective and the practice context when making clinical decisions. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • critically evaluate practice based on the best available research evidence, clinical expertise, the patient's preferences, perspective and circumstances and the practice context • critically evaluate information regarding safety, efficacy, comparative effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and performance through self-reflection and audit of practice data • find, appraise and where appropriate apply the best available research evidence relevant to therapy for patients with special needs • use feedback from patients to add to knowledge about the safety and effectiveness of therapies • discuss, appraise and apply knowledge acquired through clinical experiences and discussions with professional colleagues to improve patient care. 	
--	--	--	--



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 1.3: Practises independently			
<p>OT 1.3.1 Professional independence in decision-making and conduct is maintained. Indicators: Recognition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the need for products, services and advice provided to the patient to be appropriate, to be supported by the best available evidence and to be in the best interests of the patient personal limitations in clinical skills and ability to care for and manage a patient and how to deal with these limitations e.g. making appropriate referrals the need to maintain appropriate independence when working with other health professionals the need to assess factors that may bias prescribing decisions, e.g. marketing; personal, professional or financial gain; conflicts of interest; beliefs, values and experiences etc. the potential for practice management approaches to impact on professional independence. 	⇒	<p>ODx 1.3.1 Professional independence in optometric decision-making and conduct is maintained. Indicators: Recognition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the need for products, services and advice provided to the patient to be appropriate, to be supported by the best available evidence and to be in the best interests of the patient personal limitations in clinical skills and ability to care for and manage a patient and how to deal with these limitations e.g. making appropriate referrals the need to maintain appropriate independence when working with other health professionals the need to assess factors that may bias prescribing decisions, e.g. marketing; personal, professional or financial gain; conflicts of interest; beliefs, values and experiences etc. the need to audit practice to evaluate the impact of external influences the potential for practice management approaches to impact on professional independence. <p>Adherence to professional codes of conduct for interacting with industry e.g. when participating in industry-funded education sessions and research trials. Identification, declaration and management of real and perceived conflicts of interest.</p>	⇒
<p>OT 1.3.2 Possible consequences of actions and advice are considered and responsibility for one's own actions is accepted. Indicators: Recognition of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accept responsibility for decisions, acknowledge errors and manage errors in an appropriate and timely manner deal with patient complaints in a professional and co-operative manner. 	⇒	<p>ODx 1.3.2 Possible consequences of actions and advice are considered and responsibility for one's own actions is accepted. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluate the potential benefits and harms of performing or not performing investigations arrange timely referral of a patient. <p>Recognition of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accept responsibility for decisions, acknowledge errors and manage errors in an appropriate and timely manner audit adverse outcomes and make appropriate responses deal with patient complaints in a professional and co-operative manner. 	⇒



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 1.3: Practises independently (continued)

<p>OT 1.3.3 Advice is sought from other professionals when it is deemed that a further opinion is required. Indicators: Understanding of the expertise and scope of practice and services offered by other health professionals. Recognition of situations where there is a need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek information from other health professionals or to provide them with information • refer to other health professionals. <p>Ability to access contact details of other health professionals.</p>	<p>VF 1.3.3 Advice is sought from other optometrists and professionals when it is deemed that a further opinion is required. Indicators: Understanding of the expertise and scope of practice and services offered by other health professionals. Recognition of situations where there is a need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek information from other health professionals or to provide them with information • refer to other health professionals. <p>Ability to access contact details of other health professionals.</p>	<p>ODx 1.3.3 Advice is sought from other optometrists and professionals when it is deemed that a further opinion is required. Indicators: Understanding of the expertise and scope of practice and services offered by other health professionals. Recognition of situations where there is a need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek information from other health professionals or to provide them with information • refer to other health professionals. <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appraise information and advice from professional colleagues against best-available evidence, when deciding whether to apply this information and advice to patient care • access contact details of other health professionals. 	
--	---	---	--

Element 1.4: Acts in accordance with the standards of ethical behaviour of the profession

<p>OT 1.4.1 Patient needs and interests are held paramount. Indicators: Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of the obligation to recommend or administer only appropriate optical and other appliances • that practitioners to whom patients are referred should be selected on the basis of the most suitable practitioner for the needs of the patient • of the need to administer services in a culturally sensitive environment that ensures privacy and respects the dignity of the patient • of the legislative and ethical boundaries of social media in relation to patient privacy and confidentiality. 	<p>VF 1.4.1 Patient needs and interests are held paramount. Indicators: Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of the obligation to recommend only clinically necessary follow-up visits and referrals • of the obligation to recommend or administer only appropriate optical and other appliances, medications, procedures and treatments • that practitioners to whom patients are referred should be selected on the basis of the most suitable practitioner for the needs of the patient • of the need to administer services in a culturally sensitive environment that ensures privacy and respects the dignity of the patient • of the legislative and ethical boundaries of social media in relation to patient privacy and confidentiality. <p>Ability to advocate for a practice environment, practice systems and procedures, and models of care that promote patient interests.</p>		
--	--	--	--



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 1.4: Acts in accordance with the standards of ethical behaviour of the profession (continued)			
<p>OT 1.4.2 Advantage (in a physical, emotional or other way) is not taken of the relationship with the patient. Indicators: Recognition of the obligation to respect the dignity and rights of the patient. Acknowledgement of the need to respect professional boundaries in relationships with patients and members of the community. Demonstration of an appropriate professional presence through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • self-control/restraint • patience • respect for others • a non-judgemental approach • willingness to reassess the patient's problems (where required). 	<p>VF 1.4.2 Advantage (in a physical, emotional or other way) is not taken of the relationship with the patient. Indicators: Recognition of the obligation of optometrists to respect the dignity and rights of the patient. Acknowledgement of the need to respect professional boundaries in relationships with patients and members of the community. Demonstration of an appropriate professional presence through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • self-control/restraint • patience • respect for others • a non-judgemental approach • willingness to reassess the patient's problems (where required). 	=>	=>
		<p>ODx 1.4.3 The services of optometric assistants are used appropriately. Indicators: Ability to determine whether it is suitable to delegate specific tasks to appropriately trained optometric assistants. Recognition of the need to provide training and supervision for appropriately trained optometric assistants to whom tasks are delegated. Recognition of the need for ongoing review of the competence of optometric assistants to undertake delegated tasks.</p>	=>
<p>OT 1.4.4 The ethical standards of the profession are maintained. Indicators: Adherence to codes of conduct, codes of ethics and standards of practice of the relevant authority.</p>	=>	=>	=>
<p>OT 1.4.5 Personal appearance, presentation and behaviour are in keeping with professional standing. Indicators: Demonstration of dress and language appropriate to the context of the healthcare environment. Appreciation of personal responsibility to behave in a manner that maintains public confidence in the profession.</p>	=>	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 1.5: Communicates appropriate advice and information			
<p>OT 1.5.1 Information is clearly communicated to patients, staff and other professionals. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide sufficient information in a suitable form regarding options, expectations and likely costs to assist patients to give informed consent regarding their management provide information on UV protection, eye protection, safety, ergonomic performance etc explain to the patient and ascertain their understanding of, reasons for use of particular optical devices or aids communicate in a compassionate but direct manner when having difficult conversations disagreements on unexpected costs and material defects) determine when the services of interpreters should be used access and use the services of an interpreter provide clear instructions to practice staff regarding communications to and from patients and health professionals. 	<p>VF 1.5.1 Information is clearly communicated to patients, staff and other professionals. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide sufficient information in a suitable form regarding management and treatment plans, options, expectations and likely costs to assist patients to give informed consent regarding their management provide information on UV protection, eye protection, safety, ergonomic performance etc explain to the patient and ascertain their understanding of, reasons for use of particular types of treatment and for cessation, modification, continuation or expansion of treatment, optical devices or aids communicate in a compassionate but direct manner when having difficult conversations (e.g. regarding visual impairment, driving competency, disagreements on unexpected costs and material defects) determine when the services of interpreters should be used access and use the services of an interpreter provide clear instructions to practice staff regarding scheduling of appointments and communications to and from patients and health professionals. 	<p>ODx 1.5.1 Information is clearly communicated to patients, staff and other professionals. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide sufficient information in a suitable form regarding management and treatment plans, options, expectations and likely costs to assist patients to give informed consent regarding their management provide information on UV protection, eye protection, safety, ergonomic performance etc explain to the patient and ascertain their understanding of, reasons for use of particular types of treatment and for cessation, modification, continuation or expansion of treatment, optical devices or aids provide information to facilitate management of the patient's overall health needs and well-being (e.g. exercise, cessation of smoking, etc.) communicate in a compassionate but direct manner when having difficult conversations (e.g. regarding visual impairment, driving competency, disease detection, disagreements on unexpected costs and material defects) determine when the services of interpreters should be used access and use the services of an interpreter provide clear instructions to practice staff regarding scheduling of appointments, reviews and communications to and from patients and health professionals. 	<p>OTx 1.5.1 Information is clearly communicated to patients, staff and other professionals. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide sufficient information in a suitable form regarding management and treatment plans, options, expectations and likely costs to assist patients to give informed consent regarding their management provide information on UV protection, eye protection, safety, ergonomic performance etc explain to the patient and ascertain their understanding of, reasons for use of particular types of treatment and for cessation, modification, continuation or expansion of treatment, optical devices or aids provide information to facilitate management of the patient's overall health needs and well-being (e.g. exercise, cessation of smoking, etc.) communicate in a compassionate but direct manner when having difficult conversations (e.g. regarding visual impairment, driving competency, disease detection, disagreements on unexpected costs and material defects) determine when the services of interpreters should be used access and use the services of an interpreter provide clear instructions to practice staff regarding scheduling of appointments, reviews and communications to and from patients and health professionals.



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 1.5: Communicates appropriate advice and information (continued)			
<p>Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> patient privacy issues when communicating information of the different formats in which information is provided to patients in optometric practice, e.g. itemised accounts, letters, optical prescriptions, information regarding referrals that information should be provided to the patient in a manner suitable to their abilities, e.g. written/oral instructions/information when it is necessary to communicate details of optical devices prescribed to the patient, to relevant health professionals. <p>Recognition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> when it is necessary to involve parents/carers/guardians in the communication process e.g. when the patient is a minor or a person with a cognitive impairment the need for patients to be provided with an opportunity to ask questions regarding their care the need to verify accuracy and success of communication when patient permission is necessary before information about the patient is communicated to other health professionals 	<p>Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> patient privacy issues when communicating information of the different formats in which information is provided to patients in optometric practice, e.g. itemised accounts, letters, optical prescriptions, information regarding referrals that information should be provided to the patient in a manner suitable to their abilities, e.g. written/oral instructions/information when it is necessary to communicate details of optical devices prescribed to the patient, the treatment plan and changes to the treatment plan to relevant health professionals. <p>Recognition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> when it is necessary to involve parents/carers/guardians in the communication process e.g. when the patient is a minor or a person with a cognitive impairment the need for patients to be provided with an opportunity to ask questions regarding their care the need to verify accuracy and success of communication when patient permission is necessary before information about the patient is communicated to other health professionals 	<p>Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> patient privacy issues when communicating information of the different formats in which information is provided to patients in optometric practice, e.g. itemised accounts, letters, optical prescriptions, information regarding referral and recalls, reports and shared-care arrangements that information should be provided to the patient in a manner suitable to their abilities, e.g. written/oral instructions/information; CDs or electronic records of ocular photographs when it is necessary to communicate details of optical devices prescribed to the patient, the treatment plan and changes to the treatment plan to relevant health professionals. <p>Recognition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> when it is necessary to involve parents/carers/guardians in the communication process e.g. when the patient is a minor or a person with a cognitive impairment the need for patients to be provided with an opportunity to ask questions regarding their care the need to verify accuracy and success of communication the value of encouraging patients to share information about their medicines, treatment plan, allergies and adverse drug reactions with other healthcare professionals involved in their care when patient permission is necessary before information about the patient is communicated to other health professionals the need to provide the patient and health professionals involved in their care advice regarding avoidance of medicines that have caused allergies or adverse events and where appropriate to recommend a medicines alert device. 	<p>Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> patient privacy issues when communicating information of the different formats in which information is provided to patients in optometric practice, e.g. itemised accounts, letters, optical or therapeutic prescriptions, information regarding referral and recalls, reports and shared-care arrangements that information should be provided to the patient in a manner suitable to their abilities, e.g. written/oral instructions/information; CDs or electronic records of ocular photographs communicate details of medicines and/or optical devices prescribed to the patient, the treatment plan and changes to the treatment plan to relevant health professionals. <p>Recognition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> when it is necessary to involve parents/carers/guardians in the communication process e.g. when the patient is a minor or a person with a cognitive impairment the need for patients to be provided with an opportunity to ask questions regarding their care when it is necessary to the need to verify accuracy and success of communication the value of encouraging patients to share information about their medicines, treatment plan, allergies and adverse drug reactions with other healthcare professionals involved in their care when patient permission is necessary before information about the patient is communicated to other health professionals the need to provide the patient and health professionals involved in their care advice regarding avoidance of medicines that have caused allergies or adverse events and where appropriate to recommend a medicines alert device.



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 1.5: Communicates appropriate advice and information (continued)			
OT 1.5.2 Liaison with other care providers and external agencies is maintained. Indicators: Ability to access details of professionals and external agencies for referral and reporting. Understanding of what information should be included in referral/report letters.	=>	=>	=>
	VF 1.5.3 Significant or unusual clinical presentations can be recognised and findings communicated to other practitioners involved in the patient's care or to government bodies. Indicators: Understanding of the need to investigate and report findings to the necessary authority where ramifications may extend beyond the patient to the community (following patient consent if applicable), for circumstances such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • driving and occupational suitability • abuse of children, the elderly or the disabled. Ability to differentiate when reporting is mandatory (e.g. legislated) or discretionary (e.g. for the public good but not legislated).	ODx 1.5.3 Significant or unusual clinical presentations can be recognised and findings communicated to other practitioners involved in the patient's care or to government bodies. Indicators: Understanding of the need to investigate and report findings to the necessary authority where ramifications may extend beyond the patient to the community (following patient consent if applicable), for circumstances such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • driving and occupational suitability • side-effects of drugs • communicable diseases • abuse of children, the elderly or the disabled. Ability to differentiate when reporting is mandatory (e.g. legislated) or discretionary (e.g. for the public good but not legislated).	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 1.6: Uses resources from optometric and other organisations to enhance patient care			
<p>OT 1.6.1</p> <p>The various functions of, and resources available from, optometric and other organisations are understood and used.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the role of organisations and government bodies such as registration authorities and professional associations.</p> <p>Ability to access and independently appraise information from different organisations.</p>	=>	<p>ODx 1.6.1</p> <p>The various functions of, and resources available from, optometric and other organisations are understood and used.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the role of organisations and government bodies such as registration authorities and professional associations.</p> <p>Ability to access and independently appraise information from different organisations.</p> <p>Understanding of systems of health care provision in own country and the advantages and limitations of these systems and recognition of local and national needs in health care and service delivery.</p> <p>Recognition of the need to advocate for patients' rights to equity of access and equity of outcome in eye care.</p>	=>
	<p>VF 1.6.2</p> <p>Community and other resources are recommended to patients.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to identify patients who could benefit from services from societies and support agencies.</p> <p>Understanding of the optometrist's role in advising patients of the services that different organisations provide and how these organisations can be contacted (e.g. referral to specialist low vision support organisations).</p>	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 1.7: Understands the general principles of the development and maintenance of an optometric practice			
<p>OT 1.7.1 The roles of practice staff and the need for staff training are understood. Indicators: Understanding of the need for staff to be trained for their role in the practice and to recognise patients requiring immediate attention. Knowledge that staff should be asked to perform only duties that are within their competence. Understanding of the need to monitor competence and performance of staff and assistants.</p>	=>	=>	=>
<p>OT 1.7.2 Equipment and furniture are maintained in a safe, accurate, working state. Indicators: Knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the frequency with which clinical items should be calibrated and maintained (taking into consideration the manufacturer's recommendations) how to arrange work environment and equipment and secure appropriate furniture to ensure comfort and safety of the optometrist, practice staff and patients how to configure the practice to facilitate provision of services to patients with restricted mobility. 	=>	<p>ODx 1.7.2 Equipment and furniture are maintained in a safe, accurate, working state. Indicators: Knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the frequency with which clinical items e.g. optical coherence tomographers, tonometers and visual field analysers, should be calibrated and maintained (taking into consideration the manufacturer's recommendations) how to arrange work environment and equipment and secure appropriate furniture to ensure comfort and safety of the optometrist, practice staff and patients how to configure the practice to facilitate provision of services to patients with restricted mobility. 	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 1.7: Understands the general principles of the development and maintenance of an optometric practice (continued)			
<p>OT 1.7.3</p> <p>Personal and general safety, comfort, tidiness and hygiene are maintained in the practice.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure safety, comfort, cleanliness and tidiness of the practice comply with relevant legislative requirements (e.g. occupational health and safety, building codes, and country-specific standards) for factors such as lighting, noise, furnishings, ventilation, safe access and egress. <p>Knowledge of the infection control measures to be implemented in optometric practice such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cleaning, disinfection handwashing; use of gloves and mask attention to nail length and hair 	<p>VF 1.7.3</p> <p>Personal and general safety, comfort, tidiness and hygiene are maintained in the practice.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure safety, comfort, cleanliness and tidiness of the practice comply with relevant legislative requirements (e.g. occupational health and safety, building codes, and country-specific standards) for factors such as lighting, noise, furnishings, ventilation, safe access and egress. <p>Knowledge of the infection control measures to be implemented in optometric practice such as, but not limited to:</p> <p>cleaning, disinfection</p> <p>handwashing; use of gloves and mask</p> <p>attention to nail length and hair</p> <p>management of pharmaceuticals e.g. sterility, storage, disposal, expiry dates</p> <p>management of practice waste</p>	<p>ODx 1.6.3</p> <p>Personal and general safety, comfort, tidiness and hygiene are maintained in the practice.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure safety, comfort, cleanliness and tidiness of the practice comply with relevant legislative requirements (e.g. occupational health and safety, building codes, and country-specific standards) for factors such as lighting, noise, furnishings, ventilation, safe access and egress. <p>Knowledge of the infection control measures to be implemented in optometric practice such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cleaning, disinfection handwashing; use of gloves and mask attention to nail length and hair management of pharmaceuticals e.g. sterility, storage, disposal, expiry dates management of practice waste including sharps. 	
<p>OT 1.7.4</p> <p>Patient appointments are scheduled according to the time required for procedures.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition of the need to allocate adequate time for each appointment.</p>		<p>ODx 1.7.4</p> <p>Patient appointments are scheduled according to the time required for procedures.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> allocate adequate time for each appointment accommodate emergency appointments in the appointment schedule. 	
<p>OT 1.7.5</p> <p>Practice management issues and basic business matters are understood.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of basic business skills and recognition of when it is necessary to access professional business and legal advice.</p>	<p>VF 1.7.5</p> <p>Practice management issues and basic business matters are understood.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the impact of a business model on patient care and vice versa.</p> <p>Understanding of basic business skills and recognition of when it is necessary to access professional business and legal advice.</p>		



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 1.8: Understands the legal and other obligations involved in optometric practice			
<p>OT 1.8.1</p> <p>Relevant legislation, common law obligations relevant to practice and local standards are understood and implemented.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition of obligations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain registration as required by law • to maintain professional indemnity insurance • to adhere to local legal requirements e.g. occupational health responsibilities to provide a safe practice environment, financial reporting • to ensure that products provided conform to any relevant standards • to act in accordance with community expectations concerning businesses • to ensure that staff are respected and treated fairly <p>Understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 'duty of care' of a professional • legal requirements for record keeping <p>Ability to access, interpret and apply information about fee schedules, financial provisions and requirements for optometrists and patients.</p>	<p>VF 1.8.1</p> <p>Relevant legislation, common law obligations relevant to practice and local standards are understood and implemented.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition of the optometrist's obligations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain registration as an optometrist as required by law • to maintain professional indemnity insurance • to adhere to local legal requirements e.g. occupational health responsibilities to provide a safe practice environment, financial reporting • to ensure that products provided conform to any relevant standards • to act in accordance with community expectations concerning businesses • to ensure that staff are respected and treated fairly <p>Understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 'duty of care' of an optometrist • legal requirements for record keeping <p>Ability to access, interpret and apply information about fee schedules, financial provisions and requirements for optometrists and patients.</p>	<p>ODx 1.8.1</p> <p>Relevant legislation, common law obligations relevant to practice and local standards are understood and implemented.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition of the optometrist's obligations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain registration as an optometrist as required by law • to maintain professional indemnity insurance • to adhere to local legal requirements e.g. occupational health responsibilities to provide a safe practice environment, financial reporting • to ensure that products provided conform to any relevant standards • to act in accordance with community expectations concerning businesses • to ensure that staff are respected and treated fairly • in the issuing of certificates for sick leave, the provision of prescriptions and the reporting of patient fitness to drive and to undertake other activities • in witnessing statutory declarations and certifying documents • regarding any local veterans' entitlement scheme etc. <p>Understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 'duty of care' of an optometrist • legal requirements for record keeping, and for storage of diagnostic drugs held by the optometrist <p>Ability to access, interpret and apply information about fee schedules, financial provisions and requirements for optometrists and patients regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health insurance schemes • veterans' entitlement schemes • Community/low cost spectacle schemes. 	<p>OTx 1.8.1</p> <p>Relevant legislation, common law obligations relevant to practice and local standards are understood and implemented.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition of the optometrist's obligations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to maintain registration as an optometrist as required by law • to maintain professional indemnity insurance • to adhere to local legal requirements e.g. occupational health responsibilities to provide a safe practice environment, financial reporting • to ensure that products provided conform to any relevant standards • to act in accordance with community expectations concerning businesses • to ensure that staff are respected and treated fairly • in the issuing of certificates for sick leave, the provision of prescriptions and the reporting of patient fitness to drive and to undertake other activities • in witnessing statutory declarations and certifying documents • regarding any local pharmaceutical benefits schemes; local veterans' entitlement scheme etc. <p>Understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 'duty of care' of an optometrist • legal requirements for record keeping, labelling and dispensing pertaining to therapeutic medications and for storage of any ocular therapeutic medications and diagnostic drugs held by the optometrist • the need to store prescription stationary securely. <p>Ability to access, interpret and apply information about fee schedules, financial provisions and requirements for optometrists and patients regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health insurance schemes • veterans' entitlement schemes • Community/low cost spectacle schemes.



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 1.8: Understands the legal and other obligations involved in optometric practice (continued)

<p>OT 1.8.2</p> <p>The need to provide quality care and to manage risks is acknowledged and addressed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify actual and potential risks and their consequences determine which risks need to be managed and treated as a priority identify, assess and apply actions to manage risk 	<p>⇒</p>	<p>ODx 1.8.2</p> <p>The need to provide quality care and to manage risks is acknowledged and addressed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify actual and potential clinical risks and their consequences determine which clinical risks need to be managed and treated as a priority identify, assess and apply actions to manage clinical risk e.g. surveillance and monitoring of adverse events, safety and quality programs that seek to reduce the causes of harm in healthcare integrate safety and quality clinical practice guidelines into practice. 	<p>⇒</p>
---	----------	--	----------

Element 1.9: Provides for the care of patients with a diverse range of requirements and needs

<p>OT 1.9.1</p> <p>Subsidised eye care schemes are understood and explained, recommended or made available to patients who are entitled to them.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access information on subsidised eye-care services and programs, including eligibility criteria, benefits and requirements advise people who qualify for subsidised eye-care schemes of their eligibility offer eligible patients referral to another practitioner who participates in the subsidised eye-care scheme if the practitioner does not participate. 	<p>VF 1.9.1</p> <p>Subsidised eye care schemes are understood and explained, recommended or made available to patients who are entitled to them.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access information on subsidised eye-care services and programs, including eligibility criteria, benefits and requirements advise people who qualify for subsidised eye-care schemes of their eligibility offer eligible patients referral to another practitioner who participates in the subsidised eye-care scheme if the optometrist does not participate. 	<p>⇒</p>	<p>⇒</p>
<p>OT 1.9.2</p> <p>Patients can be directed to where they can access, domiciliary care.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition of the need to direct patients unable to attend the practice to a service that provides domiciliary visits.</p>	<p>VF 1.9.2</p> <p>Patients can be provided with or directed to where they can access, domiciliary care.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to describe or select the equipment that is suitable and necessary for a domiciliary visit.</p> <p>Recognition of the need to provide patients unable to attend the practice for their consultation with a domiciliary visit or to direct them to a practice that provides domiciliary visits.</p>	<p>⇒</p>	<p>⇒</p>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 1.9: Provides for the care of patients with a diverse range of requirements and needs (continued)			
<p>OT 1.9.3 Culturally sensitive services are delivered. Indicators: Ability to deliver optometric care that considers cultural, religious, language and socio-economic diversity for populations such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indigenous communities • socio-economically disadvantaged or otherwise marginalised people (e.g. homeless) • people with intellectual disabilities • residents in aged care facilities or supported accommodation • people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. <p>Ability to recognise, monitor and evaluate how own personal attitudes, beliefs, values, norms, stereotypes, assumptions and biases can influence perceptions, behaviour and interactions with patients and affect equitable and relevant service delivery.</p>	<p>VF 1.9.3 Culturally sensitive optometric services are delivered. Indicators: Ability to deliver optometric care that considers cultural, religious, language and socio-economic diversity for populations such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indigenous communities • socio-economically disadvantaged or otherwise marginalised people (e.g. homeless) • people with intellectual disabilities • residents in aged care facilities or supported accommodation • people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. <p>Ability to recognise, monitor and evaluate how own personal attitudes, beliefs, values, norms, stereotypes, assumptions and biases can influence perceptions, behaviour and interactions with patients and affect equitable and relevant service delivery.</p>	=>	=>
<p>OT 1.9.4 Local support services for low vision and blindness are understood and explained to eligible patients and relevant reports on the patient's visual status are made. Indicators: Knowledge of local programs and support. Ability to complete application forms or advise patients regarding how to obtain benefits, including disability support pensions on the basis of permanent blindness and travel concessions.</p>	=>	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 1.10: Provides or directs patients to emergency care

<p>OT 1.10.1 Situations requiring emergency optometric care and general first aid are identified. Indicators: Ability to train staff to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify patient presentations that require immediate attention by the optometrist facilitate appropriate care of the patient who requires emergency care provide appropriate documentation and engage with the Emergency Department, when a patient is directed to a tertiary facility. 	=>	=>	=>
		<p>ODx 1.10.2 Emergency ocular treatment and general first aid can be provided. Indicators: Understanding of what form of emergency ocular treatment/management should be provided to patients with urgent clinical presentations. Ability to provide general first-aid including cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Recognition of the need to organise emergency care when the optometrist is unavailable e.g. direct patients to where they can access emergency care after hours through an after-hours telephone number, an answering machine or redirection of the practice telephone number to the optometrist.</p>	<p>OTx 1.10.2 Emergency ocular treatment and general first aid can be provided. Indicators: Understanding of what form of emergency ocular treatment/management should be provided to patients with urgent clinical presentations. Ability to provide general first-aid including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and use of auto-injectors for the emergency treatment of anaphylaxis. Recognition of the need to organise emergency care when the optometrist is unavailable e.g. direct patients to where they can access emergency care after hours through an after-hours telephone number, an answering machine or redirection of the practice telephone number to the optometrist.</p>

Element 1.11: Promotes issues of eye and vision care and general health to the community

<p>OT 1.11.1 Information on matters of visual and general health (including the need for regular eye examinations), and product and treatment developments is provided. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access and interpret information on current trends and topical issues regarding eye and vision care make recommendations to patients, employers and the community on eye and vision care. 	<p>VF 1.11.1 Information on matters of visual and general health and welfare (including the need for regular eye examinations), and product and treatment developments is provided. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access and interpret information on current trends and topical issues regarding eye and vision care make recommendations to patients, employers and the community on eye and vision care based on appraisal of material from relevant sources, determination of the reliability of this information and consideration of the patient's preferences. 	<p>ODx 1.11.1 Information on matters of visual and general health and welfare (including the need for regular eye examinations), and product and treatment developments is provided. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access and interpret information on current trends and topical issues regarding eye, vision and general health care make recommendations to patients, employers and the community on eye, vision and (where appropriate) health care based on appraisal of material from relevant sources, determination of the reliability of this information and consideration of the patient's preferences. 	=>
--	--	---	----

UNIT 1 PROFESSIONAL AND CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 1.11: Promotes issues of eye and vision care and general health to the community (continued)

OT 1.11.2 Advice is provided on eye protection for occupational and home-based activities and for recreational pursuits. Indicators: Knowledge of the types of eye protection that meet the requirements of local standards, e.g. safety lenses, radiation protection, sunglasses. Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> find information relevant to eye protection for occupational and home-based activities and for recreational pursuits provide advice on tints, occupational lens designs, contact lenses, lighting, ergonomic design and visual hygiene for a range of activities such as work activities, home renovations, gardening, woodwork etc. 	⇒	ODx 1.11.2 Advice is provided on eye protection for occupational and home-based activities and for recreational pursuits. Indicators: Knowledge of the types of eye protection that meet the requirements of local standards, e.g. safety lenses, radiation protection, sunglasses. Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> find and appraise research evidence relevant to eye protection for occupational and home-based activities and for recreational pursuits provide advice on tints, occupational lens designs, contact lenses, lighting, ergonomic design and visual hygiene for a range of activities such as work activities, home renovations, gardening, woodwork etc. 	⇒
---	---	---	---

Element 1.12: Understands factors affecting the community's need for optometric services

		ODx 1.12.1 The demography, social determinants of health and epidemiology of the community and the patient population are understood. Indicators: General knowledge of epidemiology (prevalence, incidence and causes) of ocular and visual disorders and other relevant issues. Knowledge of local and national demographics of the patient population (specific populations, immigration, changing demographics, implications for current and future professional practice). Understanding of how social determinants of health affect presentations to health care practitioners.	⇒
		ODx 1.12.2 Current trends and topical issues regarding eyes, vision and health care are evaluated. Indicators: Ability to provide a balanced viewpoint of current trends and topical issues to patients that is evidence-based.	⇒



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 2.1: Communicates with the patient			
<p>OT 2.1.1 Modes and methods of communication are employed, which take into account the physical, emotional, intellectual and cultural context of the patient. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate proficiently in spoken and written local language(s) assess the patient's preferred language, communication style and communication capabilities facilitate effective and efficient information exchange through verbal and non-verbal means such as the use of interpreter/translation services, written, electronic, graphical or pictorial means phrase/rephrase questions and answers to facilitate interactive communication and enhance and verify understanding assess the patient's cultural background and use culturally appropriate communication techniques reflect on personal communication style and adjust as required use appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology and provide additional or alternative information to improve clarity if there are potential or actual misunderstandings direct patients to appropriate sources of information in their language, where available. 	⇒	<p>ODx 2.1.1 Modes and methods of communication are employed, which take into account the physical, emotional, intellectual and cultural context of the patient. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate proficiently in spoken and written language(s) assess the patient's preferred language, communication style, communication capabilities and health literacy facilitate effective and efficient information exchange through verbal and non-verbal means such as the use of interpreter/translation services, written, electronic, graphical or pictorial means phrase/rephrase questions and answers to facilitate interactive communication and enhance and verify understanding assess the patient's cultural background and use culturally appropriate communication techniques reflect on personal communication style and adjust as required use appropriate language, vocabulary and terminology and provide additional or alternative information to improve clarity if there are potential or actual misunderstandings direct patients to appropriate sources of information in their language, where available. 	⇒



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 2.1: Communicates with the patient (continued)			
<p>OT 2.1.2 A structured, efficient, rational and comfortable exchange of information with the patient occurs. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> greet the patient, introduce themselves and establish the patient's identity develop a rapport with the patient and efficiently facilitate discussion through attending to their statements and demeanour, using tactful comments and questions and being empathetic integrate information obtained from the patient and their records with experience to refine and ask questions and focus on pertinent issues explore and respond to patient concerns and expectations regarding the use of treatments. <p>Recognition of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider perceived power differences between the optometrist and the patient make timely responses to patient communications. 	<p>VF 2.1.2 A structured, efficient, rational and comfortable exchange of information between the optometrist and the patient occurs. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> greet the patient, introduce themselves and establish the patient's identity develop a rapport with the patient and efficiently facilitate discussion during the consultation through attending to their statements and demeanour, using tactful comments and questions and being empathetic integrate information obtained from the patient and their records with clinical knowledge and experience to refine and ask questions and focus on pertinent issues explore and respond to patient concerns and expectations regarding the consultation, their role and that of the optometrist, the optometrist's scope of practice, the use of treatments. <p>Recognition of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider perceived power differences between the optometrist and the patient make timely responses to patient communications. 	<p>ODx 2.1.2 A structured, efficient, rational and comfortable exchange of information between the optometrist and the patient occurs. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> greet the patient, introduce themselves and establish the patient's identity develop a rapport with the patient and efficiently facilitate discussion during the consultation through attending to their statements and demeanour, using tactful comments and questions and being empathetic integrate information obtained from the patient and their health records with clinical knowledge and experience to refine and ask questions and focus on pertinent issues explore and respond to patient concerns and expectations regarding the consultation, their health, their role and that of the optometrist in managing their health, the optometrist's scope of practice, the use of medicines and treatments to maintain their health, their expectations and preferred role in managing their health. <p>Recognition of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider perceived power differences between the optometrist and the patient make timely responses to patient communications. 	
<p>OT 2.1.3 Privacy and confidentiality of patient communications and consultations are ensured. Indicators: Maintenance of auditory and visual privacy of patient information and communications in the practice including the need to obtain patient permission for the presence of a third party during the consultation. Adherence to requirements of privacy legislation including when patient consent should be obtained for their information to be provided to others, privacy of patient written and computerised records, right of the patient to withhold information.</p>	<p>VF 2.1.3 Privacy and confidentiality of patient communications and consultations are ensured. Indicators: Maintenance of auditory and visual privacy of patient information and communications in the practice including the need to obtain patient permission for the presence of a third party during the consultation. Adherence to requirements of privacy legislation including when patient consent should be obtained for their health or other information to be provided to others, privacy of patient written and computerised records, right of the patient to withhold information.</p>		



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 2.2: Makes general observations of patient

OT 2.2.1 Physical and behavioural characteristics of the patient are noted and taken into account. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise and explore relevant physical and behavioural presentations of the patient e.g. facial asymmetry, head tilt, general demeanour investigate issues relating to patient well-being and comfort. 	=>	ODx 2.2.1 Physical and behavioural characteristics of the patient are noted and taken into account. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise and explore relevant physical and behavioural presentations of the patient e.g. facial asymmetry, head tilt, general demeanour investigate issues relating to patient well-being, health and comfort determine the patient's health beliefs and practices. 	=>
---	----	--	----

Element 2.3: Obtains the case history

OT 2.3.1 The reasons for the patient's visit are elicited in a structured way. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore/understand patient expectations.. 	VF 2.3.1 The reasons for the patient's visit are elicited in a structured way. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> apply different strategies to investigate the reason for the patient's visit and elicit other relevant information determine patient expectations and their perception and understanding of the significance of their condition and its signs and symptoms explore/understand patient expectations of the outcome of the consultation. 	=>	=>
	VF 2.3.2 Information required for diagnosis and management is elicited from the patient . Indicators: Investigation of the patient history throughout the examination and exploration and recording of information in relevant areas such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presenting complaint(s) general health and medical history past ocular history family ocular and medical history social history child development and educational history discussion with the patient to determine their expectations of optical devices to be prescribed. Determination of whether sufficient information has been obtained to identify possible risks and contraindications for treatments.	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 2.4: Obtains informed patient consent			
<p>OT 2.4.1</p> <p>Sufficient information is provided to the patient to allow them to make informed decisions about their care and the privacy of their clinical information.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understand informed consent, when it is necessary and how it applies within practitioner-patient interactions.</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtain informed consent from patients, where necessary • obtain informed financial consent from patients, where necessary • determine the party from whom consent must be obtained in the case of minors and patients with cognitive impairment • determine when it is necessary to document informed patient consent and how informed consent should be documented • provide sufficient information in a suitable form regarding options, expectations, benefits, risks and financial costs so that informed consent is given freely. 	<p>VF 2.4.1</p> <p>Sufficient information is provided to the patient to allow them to make informed decisions about their care and the privacy of their clinical information.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understand informed consent, when it is necessary and how it applies within practitioner-patient interactions.</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtain informed consent from patients, where necessary • obtain informed financial consent from patients, where necessary • determine the party from whom consent must be obtained in the case of minors and patients with cognitive impairment • determine when it is necessary to document informed patient consent and how informed consent should be documented • provide sufficient information in a suitable form regarding management and treatment plans, options, expectations, benefits, risks and financial costs so that informed consent is given freely. <p>Recognition of when patient consent is required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the performance of tests • selection, initiation and continuation of a management plan • reporting of findings regarding the patient to others: 	⇒	⇒



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 2.5: Obtains, interprets and takes account of patient information from sources other than the patient			
	<p>VF 2.5.1</p> <p>Subject to the patient's consent, pertinent information from previous assessments by other professionals or information from other people is sought and interpreted for relevance to the patient's management.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition that patient consent should be obtained when seeking information about them from other professionals.</p> <p>Understanding of the need to gather information about the patient through interpretation of the patient's previous health records.</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise situations and limitations where relevant information is incomplete, inaccurate or biased and when further information needs to be obtained or verified • interpret and integrate information from clinical tests performed by other professionals as well as information from other sources. 	<p>⇒</p>	<p>⇒</p>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 3.1: Formulates an examination plan			
	VF 3.1.1 An examination plan based on the patient history is designed to obtain the information necessary for diagnosis and management. Indicators: Ability to consider the patient history to determine priorities for investigation.	=>	=>
	VF 3.1.2 Tests and procedures appropriate to the patient's condition and abilities are selected. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine what tests are suitable and unsuitable for the examination • select tests that will investigate the problems described by the patient • recognise what tests should be included or excluded for different patient presentations and the order in which tests should be performed • consider inclusion of tests targeting conditions that are associated with a patient's known conditions • select and justify inclusion or exclusion of tests for the examination after consideration of the evidence for their effectiveness (specificity, sensitivity) and the age, cognitive ability, physical ability and health of the patient. 	ODx 3.1.2 Tests and procedures appropriate to the patient's condition and abilities are selected. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine what tests are suitable and unsuitable for the examination • select tests that will investigate the problems described by the patient • recognise what tests should be included or excluded for different patient presentations and the order in which tests should be performed • consider inclusion of tests targeting conditions that are associated with a patient's known conditions • select and justify inclusion or exclusion of tests for the examination after consideration of the evidence for their effectiveness (specificity, sensitivity) and the age, cognitive ability, physical ability and health of the patient. 	OTx 3.1.2 Tests and procedures appropriate to the patient's condition and abilities are selected. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine what tests are suitable and unsuitable for the examination • select tests that will investigate the problems described by the patient • recognise what tests should be included or excluded for different patient presentations and the order in which tests should be performed • consider inclusion of tests targeting conditions that are associated with a patient's known conditions • select and justify inclusion or exclusion of tests for the examination after consideration of the evidence for their effectiveness (specificity, sensitivity) and the age, cognitive ability, physical ability and health of the patient.
	VF 3.1.3 Relevant investigations not necessarily associated with the patient's history are performed. Indicators: Ability to select tests relevant to the patient's predisposition for certain conditions.	=>	OTx 3.1.3 Relevant investigations not necessarily associated with the patient's history are performed. Indicators: Ability to select tests relevant to the patient's predisposition for certain conditions e.g. gonioscopy for high hyperopes.



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 3.2: Implements examination plan			
	<p>VF 3.2.1</p> <p>Tests and procedures which efficiently provide the information required for diagnosis are performed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be proficient, safe and accurate with equipment and in the performance of techniques provide clear explanations about the purpose of different tests, and what is involved in the tests recognise that the patient has fully understood explanations evaluate which information carries greater weight in patient management. <p>Understanding of when and how patient informed consent is to be obtained for the performance of tests and procedures.</p>	<p>ODx 3.2.1</p> <p>Tests and procedures which efficiently provide the information required for diagnosis are performed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be proficient, safe and accurate with equipment and in the performance of techniques provide clear explanations about the purpose of different tests, what is involved in the tests and the effects of any diagnostic drugs used recognise that the patient has fully understood explanations evaluate which information carries greater weight in patient management. <p>Understanding of when and how patient informed consent is to be obtained for the performance of tests and procedures.</p>	=>
	<p>VF 3.2.2</p> <p>The examination plan and procedures are progressively modified on the basis of findings.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise situations in which it is necessary to perform additional tests recognise when it is necessary to repeat a test to validate results select and assign priorities to investigations based on clinical issues and real and potential risks. 	<p>ODx 3.2.2</p> <p>The examination plan and procedures are progressively modified on the basis of findings.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise when it is necessary to use diagnostic pharmaceuticals recognise situations in which it is necessary to perform additional tests recognise when it is necessary to repeat a test to validate results select and assign priorities to investigations based on clinical issues and real and potential risks. 	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 3.3: Assesses the ocular adnexae and the eye			
	<p>VF 3.3.1</p> <p>The components of the ocular adnexae are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and evaluate the conjunctiva, lids, lashes, puncta, meibomian glands, lacrimal glands, tear film, ocular surface, skin lesions near the eye etc. for the purposes of screening for health, disease and ability to function use techniques such as macro-observation, slitlamp biomicroscopy, lid eversion, describe and follow infection control measures relevant to optometric practice as outlined in current infection control guidelines for health practitioners recognise the need to refer the patient to their general medical practitioner to arrange microbiological tests. <p>Demonstration of respect and attention to cultural sensitivity.</p>	<p>ODx 3.3.1</p> <p>The components of the ocular adnexae are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and evaluate the conjunctiva, lids, lashes, puncta, meibomian glands, lacrimal glands, tear film, ocular surface, skin lesions near the eye etc. for the purposes of screening for health, disease and ability to function use techniques such as macro-observation, slitlamp biomicroscopy, lid eversion, use of diagnostic pharmaceuticals describe and follow infection control measures relevant to optometric practice as outlined in current infection control guidelines for health practitioners recognise the need to refer the patient to their general medical practitioner to arrange microbiological tests. <p>Demonstration of respect and attention to cultural sensitivity.</p>	<p>OTx 3.3.1</p> <p>The components of the ocular adnexae are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and evaluate the conjunctiva, lids, lashes, puncta, meibomian glands, lacrimal glands, tear film, ocular surface, skin lesions near the eye etc. for the purposes of screening for health, disease and ability to function use techniques such as macro-observation, slitlamp biomicroscopy, lid eversion, use of diagnostic pharmaceuticals describe and follow infection control measures relevant to optometric practice as outlined in current infection control guidelines for health practitioners perform punctal dilation and lacrimal lavage recognise the need for and select and order microbiological tests or refer the patient to their general medical practitioner to arrange microbiological tests. <p>Understanding of the procedures involved for the collection and storage of samples for microbiological testing.</p> <p>Demonstration of respect and attention to cultural sensitivity when handling and collecting samples for testing.</p>
	<p>VF 3.3.2</p> <p>The components of the anterior segment are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and evaluate the cornea, anterior chamber and aqueous humour, anterior chamber angle, anterior chamber depth, episclera, sclera, iris, pupil and ciliary body for the purposes of screening for health, disease and ability to function use and interpret results from techniques such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tonometry, tests measuring corneal contour interpret results from diagnostic imaging technologies. 	<p>ODx 3.3.2</p> <p>The components of the anterior segment are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability. .</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <p>assess and evaluate the cornea, anterior chamber and aqueous humour, anterior chamber angle, anterior chamber depth, episclera, sclera, iris, pupil and ciliary body for the purposes of screening for health, disease and ability to function</p> <p>use and interpret results from techniques such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> applanation tonometry, tests measuring corneal contour and thickness anterior segment imaging <p>interpret results from diagnostic imaging technologies.</p>	<p>OTx 3.3.2</p> <p>The components of the anterior segment are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and evaluate the cornea, anterior chamber and aqueous humour, anterior chamber angle, anterior chamber depth, episclera, sclera, iris, pupil and ciliary body for the purposes of screening for health, disease and ability to function use and interpret results from techniques such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> applanation tonometry, gonioscopy tests measuring corneal contour and thickness anterior segment imaging interpret results from diagnostic imaging technologies such as, but not limited to ultrasonography.



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 3.3: Assesses the ocular adnexae and the eye (continued)			
	<p>VF 3.3.3</p> <p>The components of the ocular media are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and evaluate the ocular lens, lens implants, the lens capsule and vitreous for the purpose of screening for health, disease and ability to function use and interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ocular media examination retinoscopy photography slitlamp biomicroscopy. 	<p>ODx 3.3.3</p> <p>The components of the ocular media are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and evaluate the ocular lens, lens implants, the lens capsule and vitreous for the purpose of screening for health, disease and ability to function use and interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ocular media examination through a dilated pupil retinoscopy photography slitlamp biomicroscopy. 	<p>OTx 3.3.3</p> <p>The components of the ocular media are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and evaluate the ocular lens, lens implants, the lens capsule and vitreous for the purpose of screening for health, disease and ability to function use and interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ocular media examination through a dilated pupil retinoscopy photography slitlamp biomicroscopy ultrasonography.
	<p>VF 3.3.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The components of the posterior segment are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability. Indicators: Ability to assess and evaluate the central and peripheral retina, choroid, vitreous, blood vessels, optic disc and neuro-retinal rim, macula and fovea for the purpose of screening for health, disease and ability to function use and interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> direct ophthalmoscopy slitlamp biomicroscopy Amsler grid test Interpret results from photography. 	<p>ODx 3.3.4</p> <p>The components of the posterior segment are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and evaluate the central and peripheral retina, choroid, vitreous, blood vessels, optic disc and neuro-retinal rim, macula and fovea for the purpose of screening for health, disease and ability to function use and interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy slitlamp biomicroscopy and funduscopy diagnostic pharmaceuticals e.g. mydriatic agents Amsler grid test OCT interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> diagnostic imaging (e.g. HRT) photography. 	<p>OTx 3.3.4</p> <p>The components of the posterior segment are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess and evaluate the central and peripheral retina, choroid, vitreous, blood vessels, optic disc and neuro-retinal rim, macula and fovea for the purpose of screening for health, disease and ability to function use and interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy slitlamp biomicroscopy and funduscopy diagnostic pharmaceuticals e.g. mydriatic agents Amsler grid test OCT interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> diagnostic imaging (e.g. HRT) ultrasound photography.



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 3.4: Assesses central and peripheral sensory visual function and the integrity of the visual pathways			
	<p>VF 3.4.1 Vision, visual acuity and other measures of visual function are measured. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate vision and visual acuity, using tests such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • line and single letter tests • logMAR charts • letter/number/shape charts • monocular/binocular measurements • corrected/uncorrected (vision) measurements • pinhole • select appropriate lighting and distances for the performance of tests • interpret the results of vision and, visual acuity tests. 	<p>ODx 3.4.1 Vision, visual acuity and other measures of visual function are measured. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate vision, visual acuity, contrast sensitivity and potential acuity using tests such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • line and single letter tests and preferential looking tests • logMAR charts • letter/number/shape charts • monocular/binocular measurements • corrected/uncorrected (vision) measurements • neutral density filter test • photo-stress test • glare testing • optokinetic nystagmus • pinhole • select appropriate lighting and distances for the performance of tests • interpret the results of vision, visual acuity, contrast sensitivity and potential acuity tests. 	=>
	<p>VF 3.4.2 Visual fields are measured. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • select a visual field test protocol that is appropriate e.g. central or peripheral visual field assessment • investigate and interpret visual fields using techniques such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confrontation • kinetic and static screening and threshold • short wavelength automated perimetry (SWAP) and frequency doubling technology (FDT) • perform driving and occupation-specific visual field assessments. 	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 3.4: Assesses central and peripheral sensory visual function and the integrity of the visual pathways (continued)

	VF 3.4.3 Colour vision is assessed. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> select and conduct tests to assess colour vision interpret the results of colour vision testing and differentiate types of acquired and congenital colour vision defects. 	=>	=>
	VF 3.4.4 Pupil function is assessed. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess pupils and pupil reactions for symmetry, response rate and cycle times using varied lighting conditions swinging flashlight tests interpret the results of a pupil assessment. 	ODxS 3.4.4 Pupil function is assessed. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess pupils and pupil reactions for symmetry, response rate and cycle times using varied lighting conditions swinging flashlight tests pharmacological testing interpret the results of a pupil assessment 	=>

Element 3.5: Assesses refractive status

	VF 3.5.1 The spherical, astigmatic and presbyopic components of the correction are measured. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate a working knowledge of refractive testing methodologies select, apply and interpret the results of tests that determine the spherical, astigmatic and presbyopic components of the refractive status for a range of presentations assess ergonomic needs of working distance and principal tasks determine when cycloplegia is indicated 	ODx 3.5.1 The spherical, astigmatic and presbyopic components of the correction are measured. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate a working knowledge of refractive testing methodologies select, apply and interpret the results of tests that determine the spherical, astigmatic and presbyopic components of the refractive status for a range of presentations assess ergonomic needs of working distance and principal tasks determine when cycloplegia is indicated use cycloplegia. 	=>
--	--	---	----



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 3.6: Assesses oculomotor and binocular function			
	VF 3.6.1 Eye alignment and the state of fixation are assessed. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess ocular alignment and binocular function in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manifest deviation (strabismus detection, direction, magnitude, laterality, constancy, comitancy) • latent deviation (heterophoria direction and magnitude) • fixation (quality and eccentricity) • assess and differentiate acquired and congenital nystagmus. 	⇒	⇒
	VF 3.6.2 The quality and range of the patient's eye movements are determined. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess versions, vergences and near point of convergence • make gross assessments of ocular pursuit movements, saccades and ocular motility, giving consideration to the positions of gaze and any limitations of gaze • detect adaptive head postures. 	⇒	⇒
	VF 3.6.3 The status of binocularity is determined. Indicators: Ability to evaluate the state of binocularity through assessment of parameters such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sensory and motor fusion • suppression • diplopia • stereopsis • amblyopia • retinal correspondence. 	⇒	⇒



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 3.6: Assesses oculomotor and binocular function (continued)			
	VF 3.6.4 The adaptability of the vergence system is determined. Indicators: Ability to analyse the adaptability of the vergence system through assessment of parameters such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fusional vergence ranges vergence facility near point of convergence accommodative convergence to accommodation (AC/A ratio) fixation disparity analysis. 	⇒	⇒
	VF 3.6.5 Placement and adaptability of accommodation are assessed. Indicators: Ability to analyse the placement and adaptability of accommodation through assessment of parameters such as, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> posture of accommodation relative accommodation accommodative facility monocular and binocular amplitudes of accommodation. 	⇒	⇒



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 3.7: Assesses visual information processing

	<p>VF 3.7.1</p> <p>Visual information processing abilities are investigated and compared to normal values for age.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of methods used to investigate visual information processing abilities and an ability to interpret the results of these tests.</p> <p>Recognition of the need to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • normal developmental milestones and any history of learning problems in a child or his/her family • any history of suspected or known brain injury or neurological disease. <p>Ability to determine when it is necessary to analyse, or refer for analysis of, areas such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visual spatial skills (laterality, directionality) • visual analysis skills • visual motor integration. <p>Awareness of interdisciplinary expertise in cognition, language disorders and neuro-rehabilitation.</p> <p>Recognises personal limitations (of the optometrist) and refers patient if the optometrist does not provide visual processing assessment.</p> <p>If visual processing assessment undertaken, ability to perform and analyse established clinical tests of abilities such as (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visual motor integration • visual attention • visual memory • visual processing speed. 	<p>⇒</p>	<p>⇒</p>
--	---	----------	----------



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 3.8: Assesses signs and symptoms found during the ocular examination that have significance for the patient's systemic health			
	<p>VF 3.8.1</p> <p>Signs and symptom relating to systemic diseases, such as, but not limited to, hypertension or diabetes, are referred for further investigation.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to recognise the urgency with which a systemic condition requires medical management given the signs/symptoms and to arrange timely referral</p>	<p>ODx 3.8.1</p> <p>Signs and symptom relating to systemic diseases, such as, but not limited to, hypertension or diabetes, are investigated or referred for further investigation.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> measure and interpret blood pressure readings recognise the urgency with which a systemic condition requires medical management given the signs/symptoms and to arrange timely referral interpret results of blood tests such as, but not limited to, blood glucose levels, HbA1c levels, cholesterol levels. 	



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.1: Establishes a diagnosis or diagnoses			
	<p>VF 4.1.1</p> <p>Accuracy and validity of test results and information from the case history and other sources are critically appraised.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> verify the integrity of clinical data (e.g. through repeating tests) assess how the patient's condition has responded to previous interventions recognise the possibility that the patient has not provided all relevant information reflect on the presenting signs and symptoms in completing the diagnosis and treatment plan. 	=>	=>
	<p>VF 4.1.2</p> <p>Test results and other information are analysed, interpreted and integrated to determine the nature and aetiology of conditions or diseases and to establish the diagnosis or differential diagnoses.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interpret clinical data integrate information from test results, patient history and reference material identify and reconcile inconsistencies between the history and the results obtained differentiate conditions of varying aetiologies differentiate chronic and acute conditions determine when there is a need for and urgency of additional testing use reference material to assist in diagnosis consider the response of the patient's condition to previous interventions when establishing a diagnosis or diagnoses use tests to exclude possible diagnoses that may be vision or life threatening (diagnosis of exclusion) establish a differential diagnosis or diagnoses. 	<p>ODx 4.1.2</p> <p>Test results and other information are analysed, interpreted and integrated to determine the nature and aetiology of conditions or diseases and to establish the diagnosis or differential diagnoses.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interpret clinical data and results of laboratory tests integrate information from test results, patient history and reference material identify and reconcile inconsistencies between the history and the results obtained differentiate conditions of varying aetiologies differentiate chronic and acute conditions determine when there is a need for and urgency of additional testing use reference material to assist in diagnosis consider the response of the patient's condition to previous interventions when establishing a diagnosis or diagnoses use tests to exclude possible diagnoses that may be vision or life threatening (diagnosis of exclusion) establish a differential diagnosis or diagnoses. 	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.2: Evaluates the expected prognosis of the condition

		<p>VF 4.2.1 Information from a number of sources is integrated to determine the expected prognosis of the condition. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • find and appraise literature on the prognosis of the diagnosed condition(s) with or without interventions • determine how the patient's condition has altered over time • assess how the patient's condition has responded to previous interventions (with consideration of patient's compliance with treatment) • re-evaluate the diagnosis or diagnoses when a patient does not respond to treatment as expected. 	
--	--	---	--

Element 4.3: Assesses the significance of signs and symptoms found during the ocular examination in relation to the patient health and well-being

	<p>VF 4.3.1 Pertinent signs and symptoms found during the ocular examination are identified and their relevance for further management is determined. Indicators: Ability to recognise the significance of signs and symptoms. Ability to determine when referral for further management or notification to appropriate authorities is necessary when signs and symptoms have implications for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the general welfare of the patient e.g. social and emotional factors, evidence of assault or abuse • the medical condition of the patient e.g. possibility or presence of acquired neurological disorders. 		
--	--	--	--



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.4: Designs a management plan in consultation with the patient and implements the agreed plan

	<p>VF 4.4.1</p> <p>Information is discussed with the patient in a manner that they can understand, so that their preferences are taken into account in clinical decision making.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gather the information relevant to the management of the patient, discuss this with the patient and ensure patient understanding of the information presented provide information regarding the outcome of tests identify when to involve the patient's family and/or carers in the development of the management plan and explain how they are likely to need to be involved summarise the relevant best available evidence in lay terms and describe the extent to which the evidence forms a reliable basis for any clinical decision. <p>Recognition of the need to assure the patient of their rights and options.</p>	<p>ODx 4.4.1</p> <p>The evidence relevant to diagnosis and prognosis is discussed with the patient in a manner that they can understand, so that their preferences are taken into account in clinical decision making.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> find and appraise research evidence on the efficacy of different interventions apply the research evidence taking into account the patient's preferences and the practitioner's clinical expertise gather the information relevant to the management of the patient, discuss this with the patient and ensure patient understanding of the information presented provide information regarding diagnosis and prognosis identify when to involve the patient's family and/or carers in the development of the management plan and explain how they are likely to need to be involved summarise the relevant best available evidence in lay terms and describe the extent to which the evidence forms a reliable basis for any clinical decision access and use consumer medicine information leaflets to help inform patients about medicines. <p>Recognition of the need to assure the patient of their rights and options.</p>	
	<p>VF4.4.2</p> <p>The relative importance or urgency of the presenting problems and examination findings is determined and addressed in the management plan.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the urgency associated with instigating management (including review and referral) of the patient's condition and how this should be discussed with the patient.</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assess the likelihood of systemic sequelae of the patient's condition recognise situations in which no interventions are necessary and explain this to the patient. 		



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.4: Designs a management plan in consultation with the patient and implements the agreed plan (continued)

	<p>VF 4.4.3</p> <p>Management options to address the patient's situation are discussed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigate suitable management options discuss aims and objectives of management and patient expectations discuss the impact of the condition and possible management strategies on lifestyle and activities (e.g. possible side effects, consequences, complications, costs, time-frame and outcomes) and recognise the importance of problems with activities of daily living for a patient's well-being make clear recommendations about management options discuss the prognosis of the condition with and without treatment recognise the patient's right to seek a second opinion regarding their condition. 	=>	=>
	<p>VF 4.4.4</p> <p>A course of management is chosen with the patient, following counselling and explanation of the likely course of the condition, case management and prognosis.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider cultural and linguistic factors in decision-making develop a workable review schedule discuss the patient's responsibilities in adhering to the management plan and explain evidence-based information regarding expectations of adherence and non-adherence provide advice on self-monitoring and recommended actions for undesired outcomes of management discuss and negotiate, with attention to the patient's beliefs and preferences, management goals that will enhance the person's self-management of their condition ensure that there is a common understanding of management goals and how they will be measured. <p>Recognition of the need for recommended therapy to be based on the best available evidence.</p>	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.4: Designs a management plan in consultation with the patient and implements the agreed plan (continued)			
		<p>ODx 4.4.5</p> <p>Patients requiring ongoing care and review are recalled as their clinical condition indicates, and management is modified as indicated.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organise and schedule review visits consider cost-effectiveness of additional testing modify the management plan based on results obtained recognise situations in which it is necessary to make contact with the patient to assess progress provide patients with information regarding emergency after-hours numbers or where emergency after-hours care can be accessed evaluate how the results of investigations will influence changes in the management of the patient e.g. when a patient does not respond treatment as expected. <p>Understanding of how and when information about recalls and reviews is conveyed.</p>	⇒
		<p>ODx 4.4.6</p> <p>Patients with life- or sight-threatening conditions who do not attend a scheduled review or referral are followed up promptly.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition of the optometrist's responsibility to determine if patients with life- or sight-threatening conditions have attended a scheduled review or referral and to discuss possible consequences of non-attendance.</p>	⇒
		<p>ODx 4.4.7</p> <p>The patient is advised of the presence of conditions that have implications for other family members.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of patient conditions that have ramifications for other family members in terms of the need for them to have a medical or optometric assessment.</p>	⇒



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.5: Prescribes spectacles			
	<p>VF 4.5.1</p> <p>The suitability of spectacles as a form of correction for the patient is assessed.</p> <p>Indicators: Understanding of the need to consider the physical characteristics and the visual, recreational and occupational requirements of the patient when determining the suitability of spectacles.</p>	=>	=>
	<p>VF 4.5.2</p> <p>The patient's refraction, visual requirements and other findings are applied to determine the spectacle prescription and lens form.</p> <p>Indicators: Ability to determine and modify the spectacle prescription through consideration of optical and other factors such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refraction, near addition and interpupillary distance • working distance, vocational needs, recreational needs • magnification and prism requirements • discussion with the patient on the advantages, disadvantages, risks and benefits of lens types, frames and completed spectacles to meet their personal requirements, intended use and expectations • dispensing requirements and limitations • anisometropia, aniseikonia, aberrations • vergence and accommodation status • safety standard requirements • lens design, materials, tints and coatings • ability of the patient to understand and follow instructions given regarding the proper use of their spectacles. 	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.5: Prescribes spectacles (continued)

	<p>VF 4.5.3 A spectacle prescription is issued in a manner that facilitates correct fabrication of the appliance. Indicators: Ability to issue a spectacle prescription using appropriate terminology with information necessary for correct dispensing, together with the date, the optometrist's name, signature and practice address, the patient's name and the prescription expiry date. Adherence to requirement to inform patients that they are entitled to a copy of their spectacle prescription and that they are free to have the prescribed spectacles dispensed by any person of their choice.</p>	=>	=>
--	---	----	----

Element 4.6: Dispenses spectacle prescriptions accurately

<p>OT 4.6.1 The spectacle prescription is interpreted and responsibility for dispensing is accepted. Indicators: Ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resolve ambiguities in optical prescriptions • fit, measure and adjust spectacles • discuss additional lens forms, tints and treatments etc. Understanding of the requirements for dispensing of spectacle prescriptions described in relevant standards</p>	=>	=>	=>
<p>OT 4.6.2 Patients are assisted in selecting appliances that are suitable for their needs. Indicators: Ability to assist the patient to select a suitable spectacle frame. Understanding of the advice to be provided to patients on the appropriate lenses and lens treatment(s) for their needs.</p>	=>	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.6: Dispenses spectacle prescriptions accurately (continued)			
<p>OT 4.6.3 Relevant measurements pertaining to the spectacle frame are made, lenses are ordered and finished spectacle frames are verified according to Australian relevant standards. Indicators: Ability to take measurements for bifocal, multifocal and varifocal spectacles. Understanding of the process to edge lenses and mount them in the frame appropriately. Ability to check frames and uncut or mounted lenses for damage and for compliance with the prescription. Understanding of standards that apply to spectacle frames and lenses.</p>	=>	=>	=>
<p>OT 4.6.4 The appliance is verified against the prescription prior to delivery. Indicators: Ability to verify the accuracy and quality of the final spectacles in accordance with relevant standards e.g. optical centres, powers, parameters of near addition(s), treatments.</p>	=>	=>	=>
<p>OT 4.6.5 The appliance is adjusted and delivered and the patient is instructed in the proper use and maintenance of the appliance and of any adaptation effects that may be expected. Indicators: Ability to fit spectacles to the patient to optimise comfort and performance. Understanding of the information to be provided to patients regarding the correct use of spectacles, spectacle maintenance and possible adaptation effects. Ability to problem-solve issues relating to dispensing and issues related to prescribing.</p>	=>	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.7: Prescribes contact lenses			
	<p>VF 4.7.1</p> <p>The suitability of contact lenses as a form of correction for the patient is assessed and discussed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> determine patient suitability for contact lenses based on evidence and consideration of factors including lifestyle, vocational needs, risk factors, vision, comfort, duration of wear, contra-indications, ocular integrity, physiology and environment, slitlamp and topography/keratometry observations and results of vital staining discuss with the patient issues relating to their suitability or unsuitability for contact lens wear. 	<p>ODx 4.7.1</p> <p>The suitability of contact lenses as a form of correction for the patient is assessed and discussed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> determine patient suitability for contact lenses based on evidence and consideration of factors including lifestyle, vocational needs, risk factors, vision, comfort, duration of wear, contra-indications, ocular integrity, physiology and environment, slitlamp and topography/keratometry observations and results of vital staining <p>discuss with the patient issues relating to their suitability or unsuitability for contact lens wear.</p>	
	<p>VF 4.7.2</p> <p>The patient's refraction, visual requirements and other findings are applied to determine the contact lens prescription and lens type.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>In determining the type of lens to be prescribed and the final contact lens prescription, ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider factors including refractive error, working distances, anisometropia, aniseikonia, vergence and accommodation status, corneal topography, special lenses and treatments, age, mobility, general health issues and medication, sports requirements, incidental optical effects, lens design, materials and tints use appropriate trial lenses, fitting techniques and equipment and dyes consider the ability of the patient to handle contact lenses recognise and assess the significance of contraindications to contact lens wear describe the modifications necessary to the contact lens prescription as a result of the status of oculomotor and binocular function, perceptual testing and disease status determine which contact lenses are most appropriate for use as a cosmetic device e.g. for aniridia, occlusion. 	<p>ODx 4.7.2</p> <p>The patient's refraction, visual requirements and other findings are applied to determine the contact lens prescription and lens type.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>In determining the type of lens to be prescribed and the final contact lens prescription, ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider factors including refractive error, working distances, anisometropia, aniseikonia, vergence and accommodation status, corneal topography, special lenses and treatments, age, mobility, general health issues and medication, sports requirements, incidental optical effects, lens design, materials and tints use appropriate trial lenses, fitting techniques and equipment and dyes consider the ability of the patient to handle contact lenses recognise and assess the significance of contraindications to contact lens wear describe the modifications necessary to the contact lens prescription as a result of the status of oculomotor and binocular function, perceptual testing and disease status determine which contact lenses are most appropriate for use as a therapeutic or cosmetic device e.g. for aniridia, trauma management, occlusion, recurrent erosion syndrome, basement membrane dystrophy. 	



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.7: Prescribes contact lenses (continued)			
<p>OT 4.7.3 Contact lenses are correctly ordered and checked before being supplied to the patient. Indicators: Understanding of what information is necessary for inclusion on contact lens orders. Understanding of lens replacement schedules (for frequent replacement / disposable lenses), lens packaging and how this affects the quantity of lenses (boxes) to be ordered. Ability to check that lenses supplied comply with the lenses ordered.</p>	=>	=>	=>
	<p>VF 4.7.4 Contact lenses with new fitting parameters are assessed on the eye prior to supply to the patient. Indicators: Ability to assess visual acuity with lenses, the lens fit, the over-correction, lens centration, lens movement and lid-lens interactions.</p>	=>	=>
	<p>VF 4.7.5 The patient is instructed in matters relating to ocular health, vision, contact lens care and maintenance and after-care visits. Indicators: Ability to provide information and instructions to the patient regarding factors such as, but not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited to: • lens wearing time • after-care visits • replacement schedules • insertion and removal techniques • care and maintenance regimens • indications for lens removal • indications for seeking urgent care • risks of non-compliance. 	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.7: Prescribes contact lenses (continued)			
	<p>VF 4.7.6</p> <p>A contact lens prescription is written in a manner that can be interpreted for correct fabrication of the appliance.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> determine when a contact lens prescription has been finalised write a contact lens prescription with information necessary for dispensing, e.g. lens design, powers, diameter, material, curvatures, wearing schedules, care and maintenance regimens. <p>Knowledge that the contact lens prescription should include the date, the optometrist name and practice address, optometrist's signature, patient's name and expiry date .</p> <p>Adherence to requirement that the contact lens prescription is available to the patient at the completion of the prescription and fitting process.</p>	=>	=>
	<p>VF 5.3.7</p> <p>Contact lens performance, ocular health and patient adherence to wearing and maintenance regimens is monitored.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Knowledge of the intervals for contact lens after-care visits/recalls/reviews.</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise and manage contact lens-related conditions record information to facilitate monitoring of eye health and lens status during contact lens wear. 	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.8: Prescribes low vision devices			
<p>OT 4.8.1</p> <p>The suitability of low vision devices as a form of correction for the patient is assessed and discussed..</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>When determining what types of low vision devices may be suitable for the patient, ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider how low vision is impacting the life of the patient, other issues with which they have to cope and the problems that the optometrist is being asked to solve • select and prescribe low vision devices on the basis of the patient's needs and preferences, functional vision assessment and the best available research evidence together with clinical expertise • consider factors such as magnification/enlargement requirements, working distances, field of view, lighting requirements, glare control, optical effects and design, physical ability of the patient, pathology associated with low vision, co-morbidities and prognosis • assess suitability for assistive technologies. 	=>	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.8: Prescribes low vision devices (continued)			
<p>OT 4.8.2 Low vision devices suited to the patient's visual requirements and functional needs are prescribed and the patient is instructed in their use.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to prescribe or refer for assessment for prescription of a low vision device to meet the needs of the patient.</p> <p>When prescribing low vision devices, ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set appropriate goals based on a person-centred goal-oriented functional case history • select and demonstrate appropriate low vision devices for the specific goals • assess visual performance with the device. <p>Ability to instruct the patient in the use of prescribed low vision devices in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tasks for which the device is useful • whether or not the device is to be used in conjunction with spectacles • working distance, contrast options, lighting requirements and glare control • operation of the device, where applicable. 	=>	=>	=>
<p>VF 4.8.3 The success of the low vision device is evaluated and monitored and additional or alternative devices or management strategies are prescribed or recommended.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for review visits to quantify visual performance and success with the device and re-evaluate needs and goals • to recommend ongoing primary eye care <p>to report outcomes to the patient's primary eye-care and health-care providers.</p>	=>	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.9: Prescribes pharmacological and other regimens to treat ocular disease and injury			
		<p>ODx 4.9.1 Pharmacological agents are selected and recommended. Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to make recommendations for over the counter pharmaceuticals or prescribe limited range of pharmacological agents allowed by law 	<p>OTx 4.9.1 Pharmacological agents are selected and recommended. Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to make prescribing decisions on the basis of the best available research evidence together with clinical expertise and the patient's preferences.</p> <p>Knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the medicines prescribed by optometrists, ophthalmologists and medical practitioners to treat eye conditions common medications prescribed for systemic disease subsidised medicines schemes situations in which oral medications or injections are a better management option than topical administration the immediate and non-immediate implications of prescribing therapeutic agents to the wider community processes to be followed when intramuscular, intravenous, subcutaneous, and sub-conjunctival injections are given. <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> obtain, interpret, appraise and apply research evidence, relevant guidelines and protocols to support or justify the incorporation of pharmacological agents into the patient's treatment plan select pharmacological agents and implement appropriate strategies regarding pregnancy, infancy, childhood and interactions with systemic medications to avoid adverse events select workable regimens taking into consideration patient's dexterity, cognitive state and other quality of life issues



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.9: Prescribes pharmacological and other regimens to treat ocular disease and injury (continued)			
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure patient understanding of the treatment implement strategies to increase adherence and reduce the risk of medicines errors and adverse events prescribe medications in a judicious, appropriate, safe and effective manner recognise the significance of the following in the management of the patient: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> indications for microbiological investigations cost-effectiveness of additional testing and treatments urgency and diagnostic needs drug sensitivity testing. <p>Recognition of the need to consider: patient eligibility to access subsidised medicines whether the patient could be referred to another prescriber who can enable them to access medications at a cheaper rate the right of the patient to be able to use a cheaper version of the medicine prescribed provided that alternative 'pros and cons' are communicated and the alternative does not compromise the outcome of treatment.</p>
			<p>OTx 4.9.2</p> <p>An ocular therapeutic prescription is issued in a manner that allows accurate supply of the agent.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Adherence to obligations regarding legal requirements in the issuing of a prescription for ocular therapeutic</p> <p>Knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> medicines for which it is necessary to apply for approval before prescribing details to be provided to patients regarding non-prescription medications. <p>Use of terminology, abbreviations and symbols for prescribing medicines.</p> <p>Understanding of how to clarify any issues relating to the prescription with the pharmacist.</p>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.9: Prescribes pharmacological and other regimens to treat ocular disease and injury (continued)			
		<p>ODx 4.9.3</p> <p>The effect of ocular non-prescription therapeutic treatment is monitored and appropriate changes in management recommended.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine the need for a review visit(s) to monitor the patient's response to therapeutic management • determine the frequency of reviews and intervals between reviews in consultation with the patient • determine the tests to be administered at the review visit(s) • determine whether the patient has been performing the treatment correctly • recognise, monitor and manage adverse treatment signs, symptoms and side-effects • advise the patient of their responsibilities regarding actions if their condition deteriorates, does not respond as anticipated or if they experience signs and symptoms related to adverse events • synthesise information from the patient, other health professionals, clinical examinations and investigations to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether therapeutic goals have been achieved • whether treatment should be stopped, continued or modified (e.g. alteration of treatment) • whether alternative management strategies should be introduced e.g. additional or alternative treatments other therapies • whether the patient should be referred to or co-managed with another health professional • discuss with the patient and/or other health professionals the patient's experience with implementing the therapeutic treatment plan, adherence to the treatment regimen, perceptions of the benefits or adverse effects of medicines and assessment of whether therapeutic goals were achieved • determine criteria for the completion of treatment. <p>Recognition of when it is necessary to work with other health professionals to modify or stop treatments they have implemented to optimise the safety and effectiveness of treatment.</p>	<p>OTx 4.9.3</p> <p>The effect of ocular therapeutic treatment is monitored and appropriate changes in management recommended.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine the need for a review visit(s) to monitor the patient's response to therapeutic management • determine the frequency of reviews and intervals between reviews in consultation with the patient • determine the tests to be administered at the review visit(s) • determine whether the patient has been using their medication correctly • recognise, monitor and manage adverse medicines signs, symptoms and side-effects • advise the patient of their responsibilities regarding actions if their condition deteriorates, does not respond as anticipated or if they experience signs and symptoms related to adverse events • synthesise information from the patient, other health professionals, clinical examinations and investigations to determine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether therapeutic goals have been achieved • whether treatment should be stopped, continued or modified (e.g. alteration of drug type and dose) • whether alternative management strategies should be introduced e.g. additional or alternative medicines, other therapies • whether the patient should be referred to or co-managed with another health professional • discuss with the patient and/or other health professionals the patient's experience with implementing the therapeutic treatment plan, adherence to the treatment regimen, perceptions of the benefits or adverse effects of medicines and assessment of whether therapeutic goals were achieved • determine criteria for the completion of treatment. <p>Recognition of when it is necessary to work with other health professionals to modify or stop treatments they have implemented to optimise the safety and effectiveness of treatment.</p>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.9: Prescribes pharmacological and other regimens to treat ocular disease and injury (continued)			
		<p>ODx 4.9.4</p> <p>Patients are instructed on the correct use, administration, storage and disposal of pharmaceutical agents.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to provide information to the patient regarding:</p> <p>description and demonstration of the correct use of drugs in terms of dose, frequency, timing, method of instillation, hygiene, shaking of bottle etc</p> <p>shelf-life, storage and disposal of medications</p>	<p>OTx 4.9.4</p> <p>Patients are instructed on the correct use, administration, storage and disposal of pharmaceutical agents.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to provide information to the patient regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> description and demonstration of the correct use of drugs in terms of dose, frequency, timing, method of instillation, hygiene, shaking of bottle etc shelf-life, storage and disposal of medications possible interactions with drugs and other substances actions to take if adverse reactions occur.
		<p>ODx 4.9.5</p> <p>Patients are instructed about precautionary procedures and non-pharmacological and palliative non-prescription therapeutic management.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> counsel patients on non-therapeutic management such as use of sunglasses, lid hygiene procedures, lid scrubs, warm and cold compresses, artificial tears; discontinuation of contact lens wear and/or use of eye make-up advise patients of where to obtain alternative care in the optometrist's absence counsel patients regarding the use of eye patches and analgesia. 	<p>OTx 4.9.5</p> <p>Patients are instructed about precautionary procedures and non-pharmacological and palliative therapeutic management.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> counsel patients on non-therapeutic management such as use of sunglasses, lid hygiene procedures, lid scrubs, warm and cold compresses, artificial tears; discontinuation of contact lens wear and/or use of eye make-up advise patients of where to obtain alternative care in the optometrist's absence counsel patients regarding the use of eye patches and analgesia.
		<p>ODx 4.9.6</p> <p>Patients are instructed in the avoidance of cross-infection.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to counsel patients on how to avoid cross-infection and contamination of medication.</p>	



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.9: Prescribes pharmacological and other regimens to treat ocular disease and injury (continued)			
		<p>ODx 4.9.7 Non-pharmacological treatment or intervention procedures, therapeutic device fitting and emergency ocular first aid are performed to manage eye conditions and injuries. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform non-pharmacologic procedures such as epilation of eyelashes, lid scrubs provide emergency management of trauma to the eye and adnexae use bandage contact lenses when necessary to manage eye conditions. punctal plugs 	<p>OTx 4.9.7 Non-pharmacological treatment or intervention procedures, therapeutic device fitting and emergency ocular first aid are performed to manage eye conditions and injuries. Indicators: Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform non-pharmacologic procedures such as epilation of eyelashes, lid scrubs, lacrimal lavage, dilation and irrigation of the lacrimal system, superficial foreign body removal provide emergency management of trauma to the eye and adnexae perform procedures such as punctal occlusion, expression of meibomian glands, expression of sebaceous cysts, insertion of punctal plugs, corneal debridement, embedded foreign body removal etc <p>use bandage contact lenses when necessary to manage eye conditions.</p>
		<p>ODx 4.9.8 The patient's risk factors for poor adherence to instructions regarding the use of non-prescription therapeutic medications is assessed and addressed. Indicators: Ability to recognise and consider factors affecting the ability of the patient to adhere to instructions regarding non-prescription therapeutic medications e.g. local language proficiency, physical impairment and the need for drug administration aids, cognitive impairment or disturbance, person's views, beliefs and perceptions.</p>	<p>OTx 4.9.8 The patient's risk factors for poor adherence to instructions regarding the use of therapeutic medications is assessed and addressed. Indicators: Ability to recognise and consider factors affecting the ability of the patient to adhere to instructions regarding therapeutic medications e.g. local language proficiency, physical impairment and the need for drug administration aids, cognitive impairment or disturbance, person's views, beliefs and perceptions.</p>
		<p>ODx 4.9.9 Non-prescription therapeutic medications are supplied. Indicators: Adherence to relevant legislation in the supply of medications to patients.</p>	<p>OTx 4.9.9 Therapeutic medications are supplied. Indicators: Adherence to relevant legislation in the supply of medications to patients.</p>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.10: Manages patients requiring vision therapy

	<p>VF 4.10.1</p> <p>A vision therapy program for patients with amblyopia, strabismus and binocular vision disorders is recommended on the basis of the best available evidence.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>If vision therapy is provided, understanding of and ability to discuss with the patient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the sequence of vision therapy • the time frame for treatment • discharge criteria • the need to supply/lend material for vision therapy programs. <p>If unable to provide vision therapy, understanding of the need to refer the patient to a suitable practitioner for vision therapy.</p> <p>Recognises personal limitations (of the optometrist) and refers patient, if the optometrist does not provide vision therapy services.</p> <p>If vision therapy is undertaken, determining and then providing the patient with verbal and written information regarding:</p> <p>the condition that has been diagnosed</p> <p>the program of vision therapy to be undertaken</p> <p>the time frame for and discharge criteria from treatment</p> <p>the frequency of clinical review during treatment</p> <p>the dispensing of vision therapy materials required.</p>	<p>⇒</p>	<p>⇒</p>
--	--	----------	----------



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.11: Refers patients and receives patient referrals			
<p>VF 4.11.1</p> <p>The need for referral to other professionals or rehabilitative services for assessment and/or treatment is recognised, discussed with the patient and a suitable professional or service is recommended.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise and manage patients exhibiting signs and symptoms associated with common medical emergencies recognise personal limitations • explain to patients what is involved when they are referred for different types of management • access contact details of other health professionals and arrange referrals 	<p>VF 4.11.1</p> <p>The need for referral to other professionals or rehabilitative services for assessment and/or treatment is recognised, discussed with the patient and a suitable professional or service is recommended.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to:</p> <p>recognise and manage patients exhibiting signs and symptoms associated with common medical emergencies</p> <p>identify ocular, non-ocular, visual and non-visual signs and symptoms that require further investigation</p> <p>recognise personal limitations (of the optometrist)</p> <p>determine when it is necessary to investigate or refer for further investigation and management significant ocular, non-ocular, visual and non-visual signs and symptoms</p> <p>consider the scope and limitations of services provided by other optometrists, other health professionals and health, welfare and educational services together with the patient's condition when determining the type of practitioner or service to which the patient should be referred</p> <p>explain to patients what is involved when they are referred for different types of management</p> <p>access contact details of other health professionals and arrange referrals</p> <p>recognise when it is necessary to refer for procedures such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ carotid auscultation • thyroid function tests • erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) • magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) • computed tomography (CT Scan) • complete blood count (CBC). <p>Recognition of tests which, if ordered by an optometrist, would not attract Medicare benefits.</p>	<p>⇒</p>	<p>⇒</p>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.11: Refers patients and receives patient referrals (continued)			
	<p>Understanding of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider the experience and location of the practitioner to whom the patient is to be referred refer patients for whom oral medications are a better treatment modality than topical medications make responsible choices for utilisation of health care resources. <p>When arranging a referral, recognition of the patient's readiness to accept and deal with clinical issues, their capacity to travel to the location of the referral, and their ability and/or willingness to pay costs associated with the referral.</p> <p>Knowledge of organisations offering rehabilitative and other services to patients with low vision.</p> <p>Recognition of the need to inform the patient of rehabilitative services from which they might benefit, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a comprehensive multi-disciplinary low vision service including other health care and welfare practitioners and support services early intervention, educational, employment-support and disability organisations <p>Ability to inform patients with low vision or legal blindness of rehabilitative services.</p>	=>	=>
	<p>VF 4.11.2</p> <p>Timely referral, with supporting documentation, is made to other professionals.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition of the need to consider the urgency of the patient's condition when arranging a referral.</p> <p>Ability to convey appropriate information to the practitioner to whom the patient is referred through a suitable means, e.g. telephone, referral letter.</p>	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.11: Refers patients and receives patient referrals (continued)

		<p>ODx 4.11.3</p> <p>Patients can be jointly managed with other health-care practitioners.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to negotiate with other health professionals and establish agreed processes when providing shared care.</p> <p>Understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the requirements for participation in the co-management of patients with other health professionals the roles and responsibilities of different practitioners in co-management arrangements. <p>Recognition of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage in open, interactive discussions with other health professionals involved in caring for the patient confirm that personal interpretation of information provided by other health professionals is correct and to seek further information to enhance understanding or to clarify issues provide accurate information in a timely manner to other health professionals with whom a patient is jointly managed ensure that other health professionals to whom a patient is referred or transferred for care receive an accurate list of the person's medicines and treatments, including current medicines and any recent changes. <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> duly consider observations and contributions made by other health professionals involved in the care of the patient work with other health practitioners to come to a resolution when there are differing views about treatment plans for the patient provide clear verbal and written information to other health professionals by secure means communicating information about the patient such as the implementation of new treatments with medicines or modification of existing treatment plans record information in the patient's health record that can be easily read and understood by other health professionals and complies with legislation and organisational policies and procedures. 	
--	--	--	--



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.12: Provides legal certification

		<p>ODx 4.12.1</p> <p>Sick leave certificates are issued, statutory declarations are witnessed and documents are certified.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the situations in which a certificate for sick leave can be provided by an optometrist and what information must be recorded on the certificate.</p> <p>Understanding of the situations in which a statutory declaration can be witnessed by an optometrist, the obligations of the optometrist and what information must be recorded on the declaration.</p> <p>Understanding of the processes to be followed when certifying documents.</p>	
--	--	--	--

Element 4.13: Co-operates with ophthalmologist/s in the provision of pre- and post operative management of patients

		<p>ODx 5.10.1</p> <p>Pre-operative assessment and advice are provided.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need to consider the patient's condition and expectations of surgery and to discuss risks, benefits, costs, expected healing schedules, complications, options and benefits of different options and technologies • how effective communication can be instigated with the ophthalmologist(s) • local waiting list length and costs • indications and contraindications for surgery • current laser refractive error correction, cataract extraction and other surgical/non-surgical procedures • processes to be followed in the performance of stromal micropuncture and corneal cross-linking for keratoconus • what is involved in the administration of intramuscular, intravenous, subcutaneous, subconjunctival injections • what is involved in injections directly into the globe of the eye, retrobulbar and peribulbar injections. 	
--	--	---	--



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.13: Co-operates with ophthalmologist/s in the provision of pre- and post operative management of patients (continued)			
		<p>ODx 4.13.2</p> <p>Post-surgical follow-up assessment and monitoring of signs according to the surgeon's requirements and the procedure are undertaken.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • standard post-operative monitoring protocols and pharmacological regimens • the normal course of recovery and the need for urgent/non-urgent referral to the surgeon. 	⇒
		<p>ODx 4.13.3</p> <p>Emergency management for observed post-surgical complication is provided.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to recognise the situations in which emergency management is necessary for a post-surgical complication.</p> <p>Understanding of how to institute appropriate emergency management.</p>	⇒
		<p>ODx 4.13.4</p> <p>Appropriate referral for further post-operative treatment or assessment of complications is arranged.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Ability to recognise when there is a need for further post-operative treatment or further assessment of complications.</p> <p>Understanding of the need to differentiate between urgent and non-urgent post-operative referral to the surgeon.</p>	⇒



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	--	--	--

Element 4.14: Provides advice on vision, eye health and safety in the workplace and recreational settings			
	VF 4.14.1 Visual screenings for occupational or other purposes are provided. Indicators: Understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the optometric testing procedures necessary for a vision screening the billing procedures relevant to vision screening. Determination of screening protocols based on the group targeted in the vision screening and the occupation or activity for which testing is being performed.	=>	=>
OT 4.14.2 Advice is provided on eye protection, visual standards and visual ergonomics in the workplace and recreational settings. Indicators: Ability to perform or refer for industrial and environmental analysis to determine the need for radiation protection, safety lenses, tinted safety lenses etc. Understanding of: the advice on eye protection to be provided in industry and for recreational pursuits the advice to be provided on lighting and ergonomic design in the workplace and for recreational pursuits lighting and vision standards for their application in industry and for recreational pursuits.	=>	=>	=>
	VF 4.14.3 Individuals are counselled on the suitability of their vision for certain occupations. Indicators: Understanding of industry and other occupational requirements for colour vision, visual acuity, spectacle powers, etc. Ability to communicate with employee and employer organisations.	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 4.14: Provides advice on vision, eye health and safety in the workplace and recreational settings (continued)

	<p>VF 4.14.4 Certification of an individual's visual suitability for designated occupations or tasks is provided. Indicators: Understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> visual and ocular requirements specified in any standards relating to a particular activity (e.g. driving) and how these standards can be applied to determine the suitability of a person for a particular activity the requirements when certifying suitability of a person for a specific occupation/task through the preparation of a report that includes relevant information. <p>Ability to access vision standards for different occupations. Recognition of occupations such as in aviation where the optometrist needs to undergo additional training before they are permitted to certify visual suitability/unsuitability.</p>		
--	--	--	--

Element 4.15: Participates in general public health programs

	<p>VF 4.15.1 Other health practitioners can be assisted in the provision of screening and other programs. Ability to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support and training for nurses and others involved in vision screening on the validity and conduct of standardised screening tests for amblyopia community education on the value of screening for retinopathy as part of co-operative care of diabetic patients 		
--	---	--	--



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 5.1: Records patient information and data in a legible, secure, accessible, permanent and unambiguous manner			
<p>OT 5.1.1</p> <p>All relevant information pertaining to the patient is recorded promptly in a format which is understandable and useable by any optometrist and his/her colleagues.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the need to create a separate health record for each patient visit and significant interaction.</p> <p>Ability to create records that are legible and can be interpreted by another optometrist.</p> <p>Knowledge of the information to be included on/with the patient record, such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patient's name, address, date of birth, contact details • name of the practitioner • dates and information relating to all patient contacts • information regarding spectacle and, contact lens prescriptions supplied • summary of advice given to the patient • details of cultural issues to be considered in communications, examination and management of the patient <p>Understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when it is necessary to record the patient's informed consent to relevant procedures or to transfer information to or from other health professionals and other parties etc. <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use standard nomenclature • manage electronic prescriptions appropriately. 	<p>OT 5.1.1</p> <p>All relevant information pertaining to the patient is recorded promptly in a format which is understandable and useable by any optometrist and his/her colleagues.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding of the need to create a separate health record for each patient visit and significant interaction.</p> <p>Ability to create records that are legible and can be interpreted by another optometrist.</p> <p>Knowledge of the information to be included on/with the patient record, such as, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patient's name, address, date of birth, contact details • name of the examining practitioner • patient history • dates and information relating to all patient contacts • information regarding spectacle and, contact lens prescriptions supplied • summary of advice given to the patient • details of cultural issues to be considered in communications, examination and management of the patient <p>Understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when it is necessary to record the patient's informed consent to relevant procedures or to transfer information to or from other health professionals and other parties etc. <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use standard nomenclature • manage electronic prescriptions appropriately. 	=>	=>
<p>OT 5.1.2</p> <p>Patient records are kept in a readily retrievable format and are physically secure as per legislative requirements.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Recognition of the need for storage systems for patient records that ensure security but allow easy access by the optometrist or authorized practice staff.</p> <p>Recognition of the need to appropriately manage electronic health records e.g. back-up.</p>	=>	=>	=>



Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
---	---	---	--

Element 5.1: Records patient information and data in a legible, secure, accessible, permanent and unambiguous manner (continued)

<p>OT 5.1.3 Corrections to records are made in accordance with local legislation. Indicators: Recognition of the need to initial and date corrections to patient records for paper records. Recognition of the need to provide an electronic method to show corrections and modifications to electronic records.</p>	=>	=>	=>
---	----	----	----

Element 5.2: Maintains confidentiality of patient records

<p>OT 5.2.1 Access to records is limited to authorised personnel. Indicators: Understanding that confidentiality of patient information is to be safeguarded. Understanding that non-authorised persons must not access patient records or back-ups of records.</p>	=>	=>	=>
<p>OT 5.2.2 Information from records and/or obtained from patients is released only with the consent of the patient. Indicators: Recognition of the need to maintain records in accordance with the law. Understanding of the legal requirements related to confidentiality and privacy and health records. Recognition of the need to obtain patient consent for the release of their personal information or the transfer of the patient record or a copy of a patient record.</p>	=>	=>	=>
<p>OT 5.2.3 The rights of a patient to access his or her patient record are understood and observed. Indicators: Recognition of the right of the patient to access his or her patient record. Recognition of the right of the patient to have a summary or a copy of their patient record.</p>	=>	=>	=>
<p>OT 5.2.4 Patient privacy is addressed when patient information is transferred. Indicators: Understanding of privacy and security requirements when patient information is communicated to others.</p>	=>	=>	=>

Category 1 Optical Technology Services (OT) = Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system	Category 2 Visual Function Services (VF) = Optical Technology Services, plus Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system	Category 3 Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) = Visual Function Services, plus Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors, to detect, diagnose and manage disease	Category 4 Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) = Ocular Diagnostic Services, plus Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease
--	---	---	---

Element 5.3: Meets legislative requirements regarding retention and destruction of patient records and other practice documentation			
<p>OT 5.3.1</p> <p>The requirements regarding the retention of records for adults, children under the age of 18 years, and deceased patients are understood and observed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Knowledge of and adherence to requirements regarding the minimum periods by law for which patient records must be kept in the case of children and adults.</p>	=>	=>	=>
<p>OT 5.3.2</p> <p>The requirements regarding archiving or destruction of records to ensure patient privacy and confidentiality are understood and observed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Understanding that processes to archive or destroy patient records must ensure privacy and confidentiality of patient information.</p>	=>	=>	=>
<p>OT 5.3.3</p> <p>The requirement for the retention of practice documentation other than patient records is understood and observed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Knowledge of the minimum period by law for which practice documentation such as financial records must be kept.</p>	<p>VF 5.3.3</p> <p>The requirement for the retention of practice documentation other than patient records is understood and observed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Knowledge of the minimum period by law for which practice documentation such as appointment books and financial records must be kept.</p>	=>	<p>OTx 5.3.3</p> <p>The requirement for the retention of practice documentation other than patient records is understood and observed.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Knowledge of the minimum period by law for which practice documentation such as appointment books, financial records, and therapeutic prescriptions must be kept.</p>



APPENDIX A

Glossary

Competency – the ability to perform the activities within an occupation to the standard expected in employment

Competencies – the skills, attitudes and knowledge needed to be able to practise

Entry level competency – standards for the profession that describe the skills and knowledge a person needs to be regarded as sufficiently qualified to be registered to be able to practise optometry.

Competency Groups –

- Units - major components of the activities within a profession
- Elements - sub-divisions of units, the lowest logical, identifiable and discrete sub-groupings of actions and knowledge, which contribute to and build a unit
- Performance criteria - accompany elements, evaluative statements specifying the required level of performance; can be used by an assessor to determine whether a person performs to the level required for the profession.
- Indicators - measurable and observable features for each performance criterion, can assist in determining whether a competency is achieved.

APPENDIX B

How to use the scheme – an example of the breakdown into the component parts for an element in Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx)

Unit 3 – Patient Examination

ELEMENT 3.3: Assesses the ocular adnexae and the eye

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ODx 3.3.1 The components of the ocular adnexae are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.

INDICATORS ODx 3.3.1

Ability to :

- assess and evaluate the conjunctiva, lids, lashes, puncta, meibomian glands, lacrimal glands, tear film, ocular surface, skin lesions near the eye etc for the purposes of screening for health, disease and ability to function
- use techniques such as macro-observation, slit lamp biomicroscopy, lid eversion, use of diagnostic pharmaceuticals
- describe and follow infection control measures relevant to optometric practice as outlined in current infection control guidelines for health practitioners
- recognise the need to refer the patient to their general medical practitioner to arrange microbiological tests.

Demonstration of respect and attention to cultural sensitivity.



APPENDIX B *(continued)*

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ODx 3.3.2 The components of the anterior segment are assessed for their structure health and functional ability.

INDICATORS ODx 3.3.2

Ability to :

- assess and evaluate the cornea, anterior chamber and aqueous humour, anterior chamber angle, anterior chamber depth, episclera, sclera, iris, pupil and ciliary body for the purposes of screening for health, disease and ability to function
- use and interpret results from techniques such as, but not limited to:
- applanation tonometry
- tests measuring corneal contour and thickness
- anterior segment imaging
- interpret results from diagnostic imaging technologies.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ODx 3.3.3 The components of the ocular media are assessed for their structure, health and functional ability.

INDICATORS ODx 3.3.3

Ability to:

- assess and evaluate the ocular lens, lens implants, the lens capsule and vitreous for the purpose of screening for health, disease and ability to function
- use and interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to:
- ocular media examination through a dilated pupil
- retinoscopy
- photography
- slitlamp biomicroscopy.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA ODx 3.3.4 The components of the posterior segment are assessed for their structure health and functional ability

INDICATORS ODx 3.3.4

Ability to:

- assess and evaluate the central and peripheral retina, choroid, vitreous, blood vessels, optic disc and neuro-retinal rim, macula and fovea for the purpose of screening for health, disease and ability to function
- use and interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to:
- direct and indirect ophthalmoscopy
- slitlamp biomicroscopy and funduscopy
- diagnostic pharmaceuticals e.g. mydriatic agents
- Amsler grid test
- OCT
- interpret results from investigations such as, but not limited to:
- diagnostic imaging (e.g. HRT)
- photography.



APPENDIX C

Assignment of competencies to the levels of practice

The four categories of practice are:

1. Optical Technology Services (OT)

Management and dispensing of ophthalmic lenses, ophthalmic frames and other ophthalmic devices that correct defects of the visual system (note: practitioners at this level are not considered to be optometrists)

2. Visual Function Services (VF)

Optical Technology Services plus

Investigation, examination, measurement, diagnosis and correction/management of defects of the visual system (note: practitioners at Level 2 are considered to be optometrists)

3. Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx)

Optical Technology Services plus

Visual Function Services plus

Investigation, examination and evaluation of the eye and adnexa, and associated systemic factors to detect, diagnose and manage disease

4. Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx)

Optical Technology Services plus

Visual Function Services plus

Ocular Diagnostic Services plus

Use of pharmaceutical agents and other procedures to manage ocular conditions/disease

In the table, where there is an arrow from one category across the following categories it is believed that all components of the competency to the left of the arrow apply at all other categories.

The prefixes OT, VF, ODx and OTx are applied ahead of the numbering system used in the competencies to indicate that only certain components of that competency apply in that category. Thus where a competency occurs for all categories but there are prefixes, certain aspects of the competency apply to Optical Technology Services. These aspects together with further components of that competency apply to Visual Function Services. All of these components with additional ones then apply to Ocular Diagnostic Services. Finally, all components of that competency would apply to Ocular Therapeutic Services.

If a competency is not listed in a category and there is not an arrow, it is thought that this competency does not apply to that category.

Competencies have been allocated based on the interpretation of indicators that are used in the Australian Competencies. An example of how different aspects of a competency can apply at different categories of optometric practice follows:

The performance criterion 1.4.1. Information is clearly communicated to patients, patient carers, staff, colleagues and other professionals has the indicators: Itemised accounts, referral letters, reports, written and oral instructions and information; interpreters, opportunity for the patient to ask questions; patient records; information to allow patients to give informed consent regarding their management.

The components: Itemised accounts, oral instructions and information, interpreters, opportunity for the patient to ask questions, patient records would apply to Optical Technology Services (OT).

These plus further aspects of them and the additional



APPENDIX C *(continued)*

indicators: written instructions and information, referral letters, and reports would apply to Visual Function Services (VF).

These plus further aspects of them and the additional components: information to allow patients to give informed consent regarding their management would apply to Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx).

However, although all indicators have been assigned by Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx), this category requires different aspects of the instructions and information to be given to patients, the form of the referral letter, the contents of patient records and the information needed for a patient to give informed consent.

An example of how an indicator could have different requirements across the four categories can be seen for the indicator patients records. At the Optical Technology Services (OT) category this would require that the record card have patient details so that it is clear to whom the record belongs. Other content would include the date of the patient record and the details of the prescription and its dispensing.

In the category of Visual Function Services (VF) the results of the tests performed to investigate the visual system would need to be included eg. refraction and acuity, together with any diagnoses and management options including the treatment plan.

In the category of Ocular Diagnostic Services (ODx) the requirements for patient records are similar, but with the addition of the information about the additional tests performed to assess the ocular adnexae and eye. In some cases it will be necessary to provide information about the type of test used and the time of day at which the test was performed.

In the category of Ocular Therapeutic Services (OTx) the details of any therapeutic agent prescribed need to be recorded in addition to the other material described above. Where necessary, this would be accompanied by information about the frequency with which the patient is to take the medication, the method of administration etc. Where pharmacological tests are ordered the record would need to include details of tests ordered and their results.



www.worldoptometry.org
enquiries@worldoptometry.org