

OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners are qualified doctors who are employed to work in the premises of an Optometrist to carry out medical eye examinations and prescribe glasses (For further information about Optometrists please see the Optometrist occupation sheet).

Ophthalmologists / Consultant Ophthalmologists are qualified doctors. Ophthalmology is the medical and surgical management of conditions relating to the eye and its surrounding areas. The speciality covers all age ranges.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners- must be medically trained doctors who are also required to hold a higher diploma, membership and/or fellowship in Ophthalmology from the Royal College of Ophthalmologists or equivalent qualifications as approved by the Ophthalmic Qualification Committee. They must also have held appointments for at least two years as an Ophthalmologist in a National Health Service hospital.

Ophthalmologist / Consultant Ophthalmologist- To become a Consultant Ophthalmologist in the UK applicants must be medically trained doctors, who have completed their specialist training with the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and gained their Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) in Ophthalmology and gained specialist registration with the General Medical Council (GMC).

To read about the Modernising Medical Careers changes due to be introduced in August 2007 please see [Appendix 1](#).

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners and Ophthalmologists are qualified doctors. Therefore to undertake any direct patient care in the UK they are legally required to register with the GMC. The register can be found on-line at <https://webcache.gmc-uk.org/ods/home.do>

There are four types of registration, Full, Provisional, Limited and Specialist. Caseworkers should note that when doctors are classed as Consultant level or above they must have Specialist registration. For further information relating to how overseas applicants can gain specialist registration see [Appendix 2](#).

Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners must also register on the Central Professional List of Medical Practitioners. To register they must have their cases reviewed by the Ophthalmic Qualifications Committee. This is

connected with The British Medical Association (BMA). Caseworkers should note that the Central Professional List of Medical Practitioners is completely separate to BMA registration. BMA registration is not a legal requirement of being an Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner. To check the Central Professional List of Medical Practitioners caseworkers should e-mail tarcher@bma.org.uk or call Tracey Archer on 0207 383 6140.

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

Caseworkers should be aware that Consultants in Ophthalmology are a shortage occupation and advertising is not required.

B&C

Skills criteria

Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners, Ophthalmologists and Consultant Ophthalmologists all meet the skills criteria.

Registration

Doctors training to become Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners or Consultant Ophthalmologists need to have the appropriate GMC registration. Caseworkers should check the GMC registration number against the register. Where caseworkers have doubts whether the doctor's GMC registration is current, they may request a copy of the doctor's Annual Retention Certificate (ARC).

In cases where the doctor has not yet received their ARC, conditional approval may be granted using paragraph P70H with the proviso that they obtain registration before starting work. Caseworkers should request the doctor's letter of invitation to the interview from the GMC in such circumstances.

Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners need to have the appropriate GMC registration and be on the Central Professional List of Medical Practitioners. Caseworkers should check the GMC registration number against the GMC register and phone or e-mail the Ophthalmic Qualifications Committee.

Consultant level and above Ophthalmologists need to have Specialist GMC registration. Caseworkers should check the GMC registration number against the register.

TWES

Training

This occupation is unsuitable for training.

Work Experience

This occupation may be suitable for work experience, if the applicant has the appropriate GMC registration. Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners must also be on the Central Professional List of Medical Practitioners.

TWES MTI

It is possible that some overseas qualified Ophthalmologists will be offered training by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists. Applications for such posts may be approved under the MTI category.

SALARY

The salary rate for Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners 2007/2008 depends on the stage of the Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner or Doctor's career. Please see the Agenda for Change salary rates below. All NHS salaries are based on a 37 ½ hour week.

Agenda for Change	Pay scale
Senior House Officer*	£26,270 - £36,837
Specialist register	£29,364 - £44,581
Senior Registrar	closed grade
Consultant	£71,822 - £96,831

* Please note that after 1 August 2007 the Senior House Office grade will no longer officially exist and will become a new training grade called the second foundation year (F2 post) under Modernising Medical Careers .

ADVERTISING

Caseworkers should be aware that Consultants in Ophthalmology are a shortage occupation and advertising is not required.

The following journals are the main sources of advertising:

Optician

Reed Business Publishing Group
Quadrant House
The Quadrant
Sutton
Surrey
SM2 5AS
Tel: 020 8652 3196
Fax: 020 8652 8993

Optometry Today

Association of Optometrists
11 Somerset Place

Glasgow
Lanarkshire
G3 7JT
Tel: 01252 816266

NHS Jobs

www.jobs.nhs.uk

British Medical Journal

BMA House
Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9JP
www.bmjcareers.com

Optician Jobs

www.opticianjobsnet

FURTHER INFORMATION

British Medical Association

BMA House
Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9JP
Tel: 020 7387 4499
Fax: 020 7383 6565
www.bma.org.uk

Royal College of Ophthalmologists

17 Cornwall Terrace
London
NW1 4QW
Tel: 0207 935 0702
www.rcophth.ac.uk

NHS Careers

PO Box 376
Bristol
BS99 3EY
Tel: 0845 606 0655
www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

Department of Health

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
SW1A 2NL
Tel: 020 7210 4850
www.dh.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Modernising Medical Careers – NHS changes from August 2007

The new NHS career framework is being rolled out at the present time. It will be implemented for Specialist Level Training in August 2007; this will replace the current training requirements to work as an Ophthalmologist. In the future Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners will gain a Certificate of Completion Training (CCT) from the Post Graduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB). Gaining CCT will allow Ophthalmologists to enter the specialist register held by the GMC. Ophthalmologists who have gained the relevant training and experience overseas may still be able to register with the specialist register held by the GMC without completing the CCT. These applications will be assessed on a case by case basis by the PMETB.

Appendix 2

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists - pathways to the specialist register for overseas qualified specialists

If the Ophthalmologist has completed their ophthalmic training and holds specialist qualifications awarded outside the UK they can apply for entry to the UK specialist register. They will be required to satisfy the Specialist Training Authority (STA) that their training and qualifications are equivalent to a UK Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) in ophthalmology. A CCST marks the end point of defined UK specialist training programmes. Where an overseas national has an overseas qualification in which there is no CCST speciality the overseas national will be required to satisfy the STA that they have a level of knowledge and skill consistent with practice as an Ophthalmic Medical Consultant in the UK.