

Australian Orthoptic Board

Competency Standards For Orthoptists

UNIT OF COMPETENCY 1: Professional Behaviour

| ELEMENT | PERFORMANCE CRITERIA | EXAMPLES OF INDICATORS (not exhaustive) |
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| 1.1 Works effectively | 1.1.1 Operates effectively within the health care system. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the need to be flexible and adaptable in the workplace to facilitate changing scope of healthcare practice • Understands the role of others within the health system and when and how to refer • Understands the need to build and sustain professional relationships and networks • Manages own workload and resources effectively |
| | 1.1.2 Works effectively as a team member within a multidisciplinary environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes effectively to work undertaken with colleagues/multidisciplinary teams • Communicates effectively with colleagues including a clear explanation of appropriate vision rehabilitation strategies and incorporation of these strategies in ongoing management for the patient/client • Raises awareness of the need for non-eye care professionals to be knowledgeable of patient’s visual status and to consider this in all patient management and patient and carer education |
| | 1.1.3 Includes the patient in all aspects of care. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the need to engage patients and carers in planning and evaluating their diagnostics, treatments and interventions • Clearly communicates information and instructions to patients and carers • Obtains patient/carers consent for treatments and interventions • Listens to patients and carers and responds appropriately • Understands when and how interpreters are accessed and used |

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| | 1.1.4 Integrates evidenced based practice into all aspects of patient care. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands current developments in orthoptics and eye care • Shows ability to access recent research • Shows ability to incorporate evidence into practice |
| | 1.1.5 Demonstrates sound clinical reasoning and decision making. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands and follows appropriate processes • Conducts appropriate diagnostic or monitoring procedures, treatment, therapy or other actions safely and skilfully • Able to practice autonomously and with professional judgement |
| | 1.1.6 Applies public health principles to eye health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops eye health promotion strategies • Participates in public health opportunities to promote eye health and orthoptics • Applies: • Principles of screening eg Trains child health nurses to do VA screening • Principles of chronic disease monitoring such as diabetic retinopathy • Aware of and applies International classification systems relevant to vision such as World Health Organization International Classification of Disease |
| 1.2 Acts ethically | 1.2.1 Follows appropriate legal, ethical and confidentiality protocols. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands legal requirements of qualified orthoptists and specific workplaces and demonstrates these in practice • Understands and follows policies and procedures relating to ethical practice, including patient confidentiality • Understands the need for high standards of personal and professional conduct and demonstrates this in practice |
| | 1.2.2 Always acts in the best interest of the patient. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes account of physical, psychological and cultural needs of patient and family • Respects patient and colleague privacy including in conversations and the social media |
| 1.3 Practices safely | 1.3.1 Undertakes risk management and quality assurance processes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collects data including feedback on practice according to workplace requirements • Evaluates practice systematically according to workplace requirements • Participates in audit procedures according to workplace requirements |

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| | 1.3.2 Adheres to all appropriate legislation when practicing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands and follows organisational and legislative guidelines for infection control and hazard identification and risk for self, colleagues and patients • Is aware of and complies with legislative restrictions on practice including use of medications and ultrasonography. |
| | 1.3.3 Uses equipment appropriately. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures appropriate maintenance of equipment • Ensures sterile state of equipment as appropriate • Ensures electrical & other safety checks are undertaken in accordance with AS/NZS3760-2010 • Selects appropriate personal protective equipment and uses it correctly • Selects appropriate patient protective equipment and uses it correctly |
| | 1.3.4 Knows the limit of their practice. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks advice where appropriate • Refers when appropriate |
| | 1.3.5 Recognises and documents any adverse reaction to treatment and undertakes appropriate response. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies patient responses and issues related to the adverse reaction • Monitors patient • Ensures responses are timely to patient adverse reaction • Records the episode according to workplace requirements |
| 1.4 Ensures skills and knowledge are current | 1.4.1 Reviews skills and knowledge and responds appropriately. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates self evaluation and reflective practice • Responds to feedback from colleagues • Seeks information and assistance as required |
| | 1.4.2 Plans and implements ongoing personal and professional development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes responsibility for learning and seeks opportunities to enhance knowledge • Participates in professional development activities |

UNIT OF COMPETENCY 2: Patient Presentation

| ELEMENT | PERFORMANCE CRITERIA | EXAMPLES OF INDICATORS (not exhaustive) |
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| 2.1 Takes an effective patient history | 2.1.1 Communicates effectively with patients and carers including people of different ages, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and varying abilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listens carefully to patient/carer/s • Speaks and writes clearly and concisely • Systematically seeks information • Adheres to NSQHS Standard 6 for clinical handover http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Standard6_Oct_2012_WEB.pdf |
| | 2.1.2 Observes patient. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises and notes any issues around patient appearance, movement and behaviour (including eye contact) that might impact on patient diagnosis, assessment and management |
| | 2.1.3 Ensures informed of all information available and relevant to the patient. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considers what other information may be available and relevant to the patient such as information from previous consultations • As appropriate and available, accesses other information relevant to the patient |
| | 2.1.4 Integrates information to inform further questioning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks clarification where required • Asks further questions as appropriate |

UNIT OF COMPETENCY 3: Patient Investigation

| ELEMENT | PERFORMANCE CRITERIA | EXAMPLES OF INDICATORS (not exhaustive) |
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| 3.1 Assesses the optical state of the eye, retinal receptors and visual pathway. | 3.1.1 Selects, administers and records appropriate tests for the optical state of the eye retinal receptors and visual pathway and accurately interprets test outcomes. | Evaluates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optical media – refraction, keratometry, axial biometry and biomicroscopy • Reception of information - retinal functions such as visual acuity, contrast sensitivity, colour perception; and retinal integrity • Transmission of information - visual pathway eg visual field assessment, electrophysiology; and presence of visual neglect |
| 3.2 Investigates and diagnoses anomalies of motor function of the eye. | 3.2.1 Selects, administers and records appropriate tests and accurately interprets test outcomes for anomalies of motor function of the eye. | Selects, administers, records and interprets tests of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocular motor systems – saccadic, pursuit, vergence • Individual nerves – III, IV and VI; VII, V as appropriate • Ocular motility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neurological disorders - Mechanical disorders • Strabismus and Binocular Single Vision |
| | 3.2.2 Identifies functional problems associated with above deficits. | Selects, administers, records and interprets tests for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diplopia • Perception and fusion anomalies • Amblyopia |
| | 3.2.3 Ensures tests are effective and relevant. | Ensures tests identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An appropriate diagnosis • Appropriate treatment • Accurately measures the deviation and its variation at different distances and positions of gaze • Sensory adaptation such as, diplopia, suppression |

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| 3.3 Investigates and diagnoses anomalies of binocular vision | 3.3.1 Determines the presence or absence of binocular vision then further investigate if appropriate. | Where appropriate further investigates for and records: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simultaneous perception/superimposition • Stereopsis • Fusional vergence including range • Sensory fusion • Area and depth of suppression |
| 3.4 Undertakes ophthalmic investigation | 3.4.1 Selects and uses appropriate tests to provide full investigative work up of ocular disorders. | Investigates and records: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optical – full refractive state and corneal integrity including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarity of media - Anatomical/physiological anomalies, such as. axial length, pachymetry, corneal topography - Accommodation • Retinal – identifies apparent abnormal from normal retinal appearance to level of recommended grading criteria eg AMD including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - abnormalities of the optic disc - Accurately describing the location and appearance of the abnormality • Vascular – identifies abnormalities of the retinal vascular network to the level of standardized grading criteria eg diabetic retinopathy including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accurately describing the location and type of vascular anomaly • Ocular physiology including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment of intra-ocular pressure - Assessment of higher level colour perception - Assessment of contrast sensitivity • Integrity of ocular Adenexae including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eye lids and surrounding area. - Conjunctiva - Lacrimal system |
| | 3.4.2 Selects appropriate investigative tools. | Uses recognised standard tests. |

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| | <p>3.4.3 Integrates and interprets test results to determine further testing as appropriate to provide a full analysis and appropriate referral, if required.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assesses all test results • Considers the evidence and employs further testing as appropriate • Further tests conducted where indicated • Refers where required |
| <p>3.5 Assesses low vision</p> | <p>3.5.1 Ensures an accurate and reliable assessment of functional vision and recommend appropriate low vision aids and strategies.</p> | <p>Ensures assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates active listening skills to determine vision related functional issues and patient needs. • Prioritises vision issues to select most appropriate tests to reduce visual burden for patients. • Uses most appropriate assessment methods to determine functional vision including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sensory - Perceptual - Motility. • Determines appropriate rehabilitation strategies. • Modifies traditional testing techniques to meet the needs of patients. • When not actively involved in conducting low vision practice, recommends patient/client referral to a qualified/accredited low vision service provider |

UNIT OF COMPETENCY 4: Clinical Management

| ELEMENT | PERFORMANCE CRITERIA | EXAMPLES OF INDICATORS (not exhaustive) |
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| 4.1 Undertakes effective clinical management of patient | 4.1.1 Undertakes non-surgical treatment options for abnormalities of ocular motility, binocular vision and amblyopia management. | Provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate occlusion management for amblyopia/diplopia • Orthoptic exercises to promote fusion • Orthoptic exercises to strengthen ocular muscle weakness • Management of diplopia |
| | 4.1.2 Monitors ongoing ophthalmic management of chronic eye disease. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertakes refraction and pre cataract surgical assessment • Develops and implements patient management plan • Provides post-operative follow up to cataract surgery • Provides monitoring of chronic conditions such as glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy |
| | 4.1.3 Provides effective training in relevant strategies to ameliorate the impact of reduced vision or depressed visual function. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies appropriate strategies for the condition from the evidence • Identifies and delivers appropriate training to patient • Ensures training of patient is effective and person centered |
| | 4.1.4 Provides effective patient education. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures patients and carers are aware of nature of eye disorder and its implications |

UNIT OF COMPETENCY 5: Administration of Clinical Data

| ELEMENT | PERFORMANCE CRITERIA | EXAMPLES OF INDICATORS (not exhaustive) |
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| <p>5.1 Records and stores clinical data appropriately</p> | <p>5.1.1 Understands Australian clinical data record keeping standards and practices regarding recording, storing, reporting and uses.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records patient information legibly, accurately and appropriately • Uses appropriate abbreviations • Stores information securely ensuring confidentiality • Complies with National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards 1.19 |
| | <p>5.1.2 Ensures Australian legislative requirements are met regarding retention and destruction of patient health records.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands legislative requirements • Keeps patient health records according to requirements |