

Resources to support Clinical Governance in Optometry



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12th July 2006

These resources have been compiled from a search of Optometry websites in the UK.

Association of Optometrists on clinical governance

The main purpose of clinical governance is to support healthcare staff in improving quality of care. It also ensures that wherever possible poor clinical performance is detected and acted upon.

Clinical governance does not replace an optometrist's clinical decision making; independent clinical judgement is retained and considered vital. The aim of clinical governance is to put systems in place within which this judgement is exercised so as to reduce the possibility of poor performance and to ensure that wherever possible problems are remedied before they get out of hand. Much of this will relate to the organisation and management of clinical services rather than to individual clinical decisions.

In optometry, aspects of clinical governance include:

- Clinical Guidelines / Code of Ethics
- Clinical Audit
- Quality Assurance
- Risk Management
- Peer Review
- CET- Lifelong Learning
- Personal Development Plans
- Continuous Professional Development

Find out more about what the AOP says about clinical governance at:
http://www.assoc-optometrists.org/primary/primary_1066315769.html

Below is an update on the current position of the new Community Optometry contract followed by a list of useful resources to support the development of clinical governance for Optometry, Opticians and Orthoptists.

Health Bill 2005

Specifically the Bill aims to:

- introduce provider/performer arrangements that will allow PCTs to contract directly with dispensing opticians and lay owned practices for the provision of ophthalmic services
- provide a framework for PCTs to contract with providers for the current sight test; for prescribed additional services; and for enhanced services at their own discretion to meet local needs
- allow PCTs to contract with anybody they consider appropriate for the provision of ophthalmic services subject to certain safeguards and to their employing properly qualified clinicians to undertake the clinical work
- allow PCTs to contract directly with dispensing opticians and lay owned practices for the provision of ophthalmic services which they cannot do at present

- apply for national disqualification of providers, with appeal mechanisms in place
- give PCTs the power to exclude a person or a company from redeeming optical vouchers where they had reason to doubt the appropriateness of such a person having access to public monies in this way; appeal arrangements would be put in place so that anyone who was banned from redeeming vouchers and felt it was unjustified would be able to contest the decision
- Clinicians would, as now, have to be registered optometrists or ophthalmic medical practitioners who would have to be included in a 'performers list'
- Inclusion in one performers list would enable a practitioner to perform NHS ophthalmic services in any PCT area in England

The above process is likely to take some considerable time. Assuming that the Bill receives Royal Assent in summer 2006, the Department of Health will then need to consult with the relevant stakeholders on the precise terms of the Regulations that the Bill seeks to enable.

Primary Care Contracting www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk

Primary Care Contracting will be developing a series of national events for PCTs offering practical advice on how to implement the new ophthalmic services contracts. These are likely to take place in early 2007.

The site brings together information and resources to help you understand and implement the new primary care contracting arrangements. PCC supports the development of primary care across all PCTs in England. Their team of advisers work with PCTs and SHAs to provide detailed and expert information to help maximise the benefits offered by the new contracts.

Optometry Competencies
Advice on Commissioning
Links to Professional Bodies

Association of Optometrists www.aop.org.uk

The AOP has produced a number of documents to help clarify the issues around clinical governance and these are described briefly under the headings below. Also included is the College of Optometrists Clinical Audit Framework for Optometric Practice. Details of published audits can be found in the Audit category.

Clinical Governance and Audit
Clinical Governance Baseline Assessment & Practice Visits Forms

College of Optometrists www.college-optometrists.org

The College of Optometrists is the Professional, Scientific and Examining Body for Optometry in the UK, working for the public benefit. Supporting its Members in all aspects of professional development, the College provides Pre-Registration training and assessment, continuous professional development opportunities, advice and guidance on professional conduct and standards.

Available to members:

Framework for Clinical Governance in Optometric Practice

www.college-optometrists.org/objects_store/clingov.pdf

Publications

Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct

Frameworks

Optometry in Practice

Members Handbook

E-newsletter Archive

Other Guidance and Advice

Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics

Current Awareness

Consultation Responses

General Optical Council www.optical.org

The General Optical Council is the statutory body which regulates dispensing opticians, optometrists and those bodies carrying on business as optometrists or dispensing opticians. The GOC's main aims are to protect the public and promote high standards of professional conduct and education amongst opticians

Legal Information

The Opticians Act 1999

Rules and Regulations

Codes of Conduct

Useful Contacts

Ophthalmic Research Network www.site4sight.org.uk

This site is a resource for anyone interested in any aspect of ophthalmic research and eye health. While the main focus of the site is research there are also links to a wealth of other relevant websites and more general information about eye health. Submitting information about ophthalmic research and eye health is easy and can be achieved from almost anywhere on the site.

Guidance for Clinical Governance in Ophthalmology

RCO

Clinical Guidelines

British and Irish Orthoptic Society www.orthoptics.org.uk

Guides on use of effective clinical audit
Competency Standards
CPD portfolio

Association of British Dispensing Opticians www.abdo.org.uk

The Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) was formed in 1986 when its two predecessors, the Association of Dispensing Opticians and the Faculty Of Dispensing Opticians, were merged following the Health and Social Security Act of 1984. The profession of dispensing opticians has been regulated voluntarily since 1926 and, as a statutory profession, by the Opticians Act since 1958. Since such time the conduct of dispensing opticians has thus been regulated partly by legal provisions, by advice given by the General Optical Council, and by ABDO's own Advice to Fellows.

Representing UK Optical Sector
Review of General Ophthalmic Services

The Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians www.fodo.com

FODO represents the business interests of registered opticians. FODO aims to ensure that the views of their wide ranging membership is taken into account by policy makers, government and the regulatory bodies. Membership includes individual opticians, most of the regional and family companies and substantial national groups.

Foster Review of professional regulation
Latest Health Bill Update

Information about clinical governance is also available at the NHS Clinical Governance Support Team's website www.cgsupport.nhs.uk. Clinical governance inquiries can be made to support@ncgst.nhs.uk.