

Changes to the Syllabus of the ABDO Certificate in Contact Lens Practice

The syllabus of the ABDO Certificate in Contact Lens Practice has been updated following the quinquennial review which took place at the end of last year and the changes have been incorporated in the 2019 Syllabus.

The 2019 Syllabus will take effect with the September 2019 intake to the ABDO College and Bradford College Contact Lens training courses. The first Theory examinations to the new syllabus will be held in the Summer 2020 sitting [in June 2020] and the first Practical examinations in the Winter 2020 sitting [in January 2021].

The implications

For those starting training courses at ABDO College and Bradford College in September - The training courses will be issuing copies to all their students. The ABDO Examinations & Registration department will be visiting Bradford College and the ABDO College blocks as usual in October, with training support information. The 2019 Syllabus is available from the ABDO website and hard copies are available from the ABDO Examinations & Registration department [01227 732921].

For those who have completed their training course and are about to begin or are in the midst of the theory and practical examinations - Whilst the areas of change in the 2019 Syllabus are relevant to current practice, they do not involve major changes in study and preparation for the assessments, so -

- Theory examinations in Winter 2019 [held in December 2019] will be to the 2018 syllabus
- Practical examinations in Winter 2019 [held in January 2020] and Summer 2020 will be to the 2018 syllabus.
- All theory examinations with effect from the June 2020 examination sitting, will be to the 2019 Syllabus
- All practical examinations whether the full 6 sections or one or more sections to be retaken, with effect from the January 2021 examination sitting, will be to the 2019 Syllabus.

The Changes to the Assessments.

In the **Theory** syllabus, Unit One - Anatomy, Physiology and Related Pathology has two new categories, G] Retina and H] Uveal Tract. Unit Two - Contact Lens Visual Optics has an extra section as E] Methods of manufacture has been transferred from the Contact Lens Practice theory syllabus. Unit Three - Contact Lens Practice, has been re-arranged with A] Instrumentation covering more modern instruments: C] Contact Lens Induced Complications replaces the previous Abnormal Conditions: E] Clinical Governance has been added.

In the **Practical** syllabus – there are **no** changes to the In-practice assessment of Competency 5.2: that will still take place during the practice visit. In the Practical examination, there are **no** changes to the content of Section 1 – Initial assessment, **nor** to that of Section 3 – RGP Contact Lens Fitting. There are **changes** in Section 2- Soft Lens Fitting.

requiring b] Assessment of Over-Refraction to be binocular – and extra time has been added as a result. **More time** has also been added to Section 4- Other Lenses, to allow for discussion on myopia control and lenses for conditions requiring visual benefit. The **format** of Section 5 – Aftercare Routine and Management is **unchanged** but the Case Record requirements are now more reflective of current practice [detailed below]. There is **no change** to Section 6 – Verification and Identification.

There are **no changes** to the Case Record Requirements regarding the **level of aftercare** and the first pair of lenses are required to be issued by 30 November for the Summer [and Autumn resit] examinations and by 31 May for the Winter [and Spring resit] examinations, to allow for aftercare consultations to take place as appropriate for the patient's corneal and adnexal status, the type of lens and lens wear. The **number** of Case records to be prepared **remains at 10** but the **mix** now required is a minimum of 2 RGP fittings, 2 toric patients and 2 multifocal fittings in addition to the [unchanged] requirement for 2 patients experiencing problems with contact lens wear- either corneal and/or adnexal issues or intolerance to lens wear which requires a major change in management: these patients must also meet the minimum aftercare requirements.

More detailed requirements for the case records' presentation were introduced for the Summer 2018 sitting and Case Record folders and instructions, were sent to all candidates sitting that examination. The Case Record folder and instructions will be issued to the 2019 intake in October and will be sent to any other candidate as soon as they apply for the practical examination.

Other changes

More clarification regarding practical experience.

- The TCLO must gain **practical experience** for a **minimum of 1 day** per week from registration of their Primary supervisor until they have been admitted to the GOC Contact Lens Specialty Register. The minimum of 224 hours practical experience remains, to be confirmed by the Primary Supervisor Declaration which accompanies the case records submitted for the practical examination.
- The **Initial Practical Experience Period of a minimum of 3 months** [from the confirmation of the Primary supervisor registration] **AND 150 hours of personal clinical experience**. Once this period has been achieved, a Supporting supervisor may be registered.
- The introduction of a **Personal Clinical Experience Hours Chart** to record the consultations carried out by the TCLO, together with the supervisor's signature. A copy of this will be required to be presented with a Supporting supervisor application and also with the Primary Supervisor's Declaration.

The various changes have been introduced to update the syllabus in line with the continuing development of contact lens practice – and to support the TCLO in their preparations for the ABDO Certificate in Contact Lens Practice assessments. As a pre-requisite to entry to the Contact Lens Specialty Register and thus the ability to practise as a Contact Lens Optician [CLO], the qualification also provides entry to other professional opportunities such as accreditation as a MECS CLO.

Rosemary Bailey FBDO[Hons]CL
Chief Examiner in Contact Lens Practice
August 2019