

Complete Ophthalmic Services CIC: Meeting the CPD Requirements of Professional & Regulatory Bodies

Complete Ophthalmic Services CIC ("the Company") has been established to specifically act as the lead for a network of local optical practices ("subcontractors") dedicated to deliver excellent eye care in the local community. The Company will also utilise a non-clinical subcontractor, Webstar Health.

While management of general performance and conduct of staff will be the responsibility of the individual subcontractor practices, it is the Company's policy that all practitioners within its subcontracted practices receive training appropriate to the level of duties they carry out and continually develop in the interests of patients.

The Company requires subcontractors to ensure that all optometrists and opticians engaged to deliver community services are registered annually with the General Optical Council (GOC) and meet the requirements of the GOC's mandatory Continuing Education and Training (CET) scheme. The GOC is the regulator for the optical professions in the UK and maintains a register of individuals who are qualified and fit to practise, train or carry on business as optometrists and dispensing opticians.

Mandatory Continuing Education and Training (CET) Scheme for optometrists and opticians

In order to ensure that eyecare practitioners maintain the up to date skills and knowledge needed to practise safely and effectively throughout their career, the GOC oversees a mandatory CET scheme. The CET scheme is a points-based scheme that runs over a three-year cycle.

A total of 36 general points are required per cycle for all dispensing opticians and optometrists covering all competencies, with a minimum of six points being required in any one calendar year.

At least 18 of the 36 general points required must be achieved through interactive CET, and at least one point must be obtained for participation in a peer review.

The Company requires subcontractors to ensure that all optometrists or opticians engaged by to deliver community services have completed the training and accreditation the particular service requires. This may include attendance at peer discussion sessions, and will be verified through uploading of certification where appropriate.

Optometrists can also participate in the College of Optometrists' voluntary CPD scheme.

The Company will maintain a register of practitioners accredited to provide the community services.

The Company's clinical governance and performance lead will, if requested by the commissioner, as soon as possible and no more than twenty days following a written request, provide evidence demonstrating that practitioners employed by the Company's subcontractors are suitably qualified to deliver the service.

Subcontracting practices will be provided with an induction to the service by the Company and supplied with an information pack including accreditation, guidelines and pathway details.

CPD for Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners and Ophthalmologists

[Information to be added if relevant to the service commissioned.]

The Company reserves the right to remove a practitioner from the register of accredited practitioners if he/she does not meet the accreditation criteria, including the mandatory CET or CPD requirements required for their profession.

The Company will work with Local Education and Training Boards and Health Education England to understand local workforce and healthcare requirements, local education and training needs and plan provision where applicable.

The Company's Meeting Professional & Regulatory CPD Requirements Policy will be reviewed annually from April 2014.