**INDIVIDUAL AND SPECIALISED STAFF ROLES**

**CONSULTANT OPHTHALMOLOGISTS**

An Ophthalmologist is a medically trained Doctor that commonly acts as both physician and surgeon. The role of the ophthalmologist is to diagnose and treat diseases and injuries in and around the eyes.

**OPTOMETRIST**

Optometrists examine eyes, give advice on visual problems and prescribe and fit glasses or contact lenses. They are most commonly employed in the high street opticians but may also work in the Hospital Eye Service; Some optometrists carry out an enhanced role in caring for patients with stable chronic eye conditions.

**ORTHOPTISTS**

Diagnose and treat defects of vision and abnormalities of eye movement. They are usually part of a hospital care team looking after people with eye problems, especially those related to binocular vision, amblyopia (lazy eye) and strabismus (squint).

**DISPENSING OPTICIAN**

This role covers a wide range of activities associated with spectacles and contact lenses, The dispensing optician designs, measures, fits and adapts lenses and frames according to written optical prescription or specifications; assists with selecting frames; measures for size of eyeglasses and coordinates frames with facial and eye measurements and optical prescriptions; prepares work order for optical laboratory containing instructions for grinding and mounting lenses in frames; verifies exactness of finished lens spectacles; adjusts frame and lens position to fit; shapes or reshapes frames.

**OPHTHALMIC PHOTOGRAPHER**

Main responsibilities include carrying out a broad range of diagnostic and imaging procedures. The Ophthalmic photographer performs an extensive range of ophthalmic angiography and diagnostic imaging techniques, to investigate diseases affecting the eye and visual system. Considerable understanding of these imaging and test modalities is vital in producing accurate and reliable diagnostic test results. The role requires a detailed understanding of the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the eye and supporting structures, as well as systemic diseases such as diabetes. Duties include liaising and working with a diverse range of healthcare professionals and managing other members of photographic team.

**JUNIOR PHOTOGRAPHER**

To work independantly and as part of the ophthalmic team toundertake all aspects of imaging. The junior photographers are responsible to the Ophthalmic photographer whilst being responsible for their own clinic sessions.

**MATRON**

Has overall responsibility and accountability for the Ophthalmology OPD. Her role is extensive and includes liaising with members of staff at the Royal from executive level downwards, plus outside health professionals and PCT’s, to ensure the department provides the area with the highest standard of Ophthalmology services.

**SISTER**

Provides effective line management and clinical leadership to staff in the department. Working closely with the Matron, medical staff and other allied health professionals, she is responsible for the efficient coordination and organisation of activity throughout the department. Her role includes assisting in the management of change within the department to provide continuous improvement in patient care, to develop clinical expertise within the department and continually improve standards of nursing practice.

**OPHTHALMIC NURSE PRACTICIONER**

An Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner provides care for the patients suffering from disorders of the eye. Working under the direct supervision of a licensed Ophthalmologist, the ONP works to diagnose and treat various diseases that affect the human eye such as cataracts, partial or full blindness, eye trauma and glaucoma. ONPs provide pre and post operative care supporting patients through various surgical procedures, they are required to work independently and manage their own clinics providing a continuous service and facilitating co ordination and service of the department. Their role requires them to teach, support and develop junior members and colleagues within the department.

**STAFF NURSE**

A staff nurse will work under the direction of sister to ensure that the ophthalmic clinic provides a high standard of nursing care and treatments to patients and their families. The nurses will have clinical skills in areas of Ophthalmology treatments and will assist other professionals with these. They will act as patient advocate, assisting and supporting where required. They will deliver safe practice, adhering to their code of conduct and will be responsible for maintaining a clean clinical area, working closely with infection control and protection team. The staff nurse is required to co ordinate the clinical environment in the absence of senior staff members.

**HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT**

Healthcare assistants are responsible for assisting qualified healthcare professionals in all aspects of patient care. The job can be extremely varied, since the healthcare professionals who require the services of a healthcare assistant range from nurses to doctors. The role of a healthcare assistant overlaps that performed by a nurse. However, healthcare assistants do not perform complex nursing procedures and may only administer a few medications for which they have had training .Once competency is obtained the healthcare assistant will undertake instillation of eye drops, a range of visual acuity testing, visual field assessment, focimetry, autorefraction and IV cannulation. Requirements may vary as new and updated equiptment becomes available.

**SIGHT SUPPORT DERBYSHIRE – Hospital Service**

Provide information and practical advice to patients with visual impairment, their carers and families. Information on: Implications of registering as sight or severely sight impaired, eye conditions, aids and equipment, social activities and support groups. The sight support service provide information on, or signposting to home support services, rehabilitation services, social services and other statutory agencies. They also arrange low vision assessments either in the eye clinic or at the patient’s home.

**DIABETIC RETINOPATHY SCREENER/GRADER**

The screeners role is to deliver the eye screening programme either in primary care or within the eye department. This will involve the use of digital photography and analysis and grading of images. They will train on a recognised diabetic screening course to culminate in a diploma qualification in Diabetic Screening and Grading. Their role also includes providing information, support and advise to patients in conjunction with the Daibetic screening service. To undertake other aspects of ophthalmic imaging for the eye department as and when required.