



Singapore National
Eye Centre
SingHealth

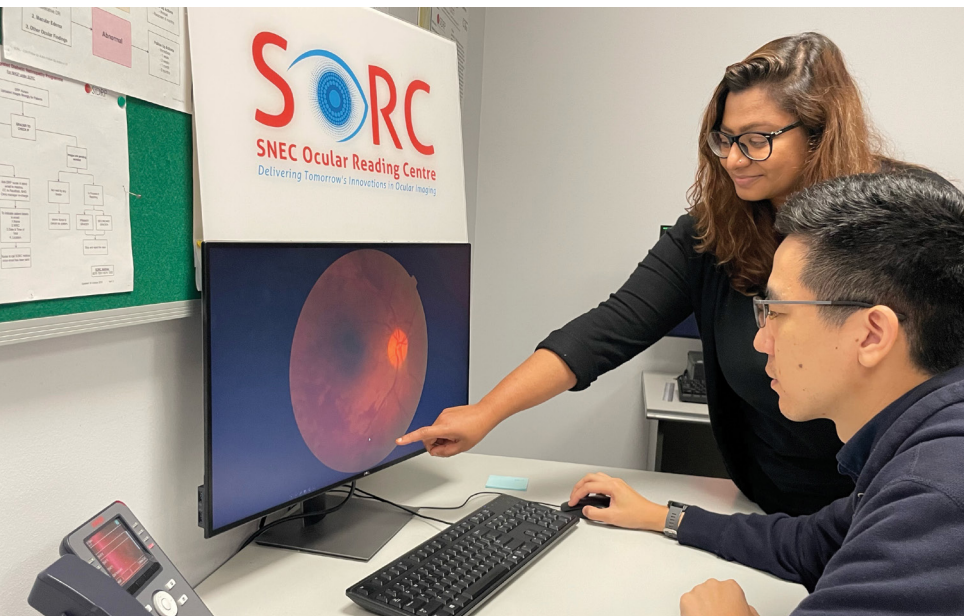


WHO Collaborating Centre
Prevention of Blindness and
Vision Impairment



Global Eye Health

SNEC Global Eye Health WHO-endorsed Courses



Contents

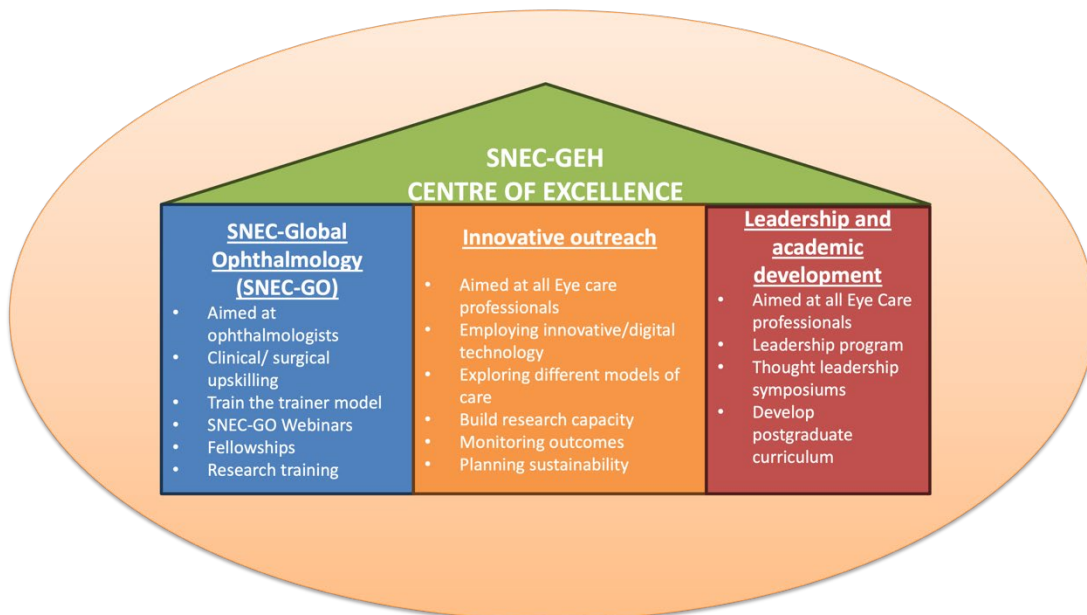
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Introduction

Transformational approaches are required to address the increasing burden of global eye health especially in low-income and middle-income countries of the Asia-Pacific region, where quality eye care is scarce and unequally distributed. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has advocated 1) making eye care an integral part of universal health coverage, 2) implementing an integrated people-centred eye care system, 3) using effective high-quality implementation and health systems research to assess the effectiveness of eye care interventions, 4) monitoring trends and evaluating progress as well as 5) advocacy on eye health needs.

Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC) and Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI) was designated a WHO collaborating centre for the prevention of blindness and vision impairment on 17th November 2023. This is in line with the SNEC Global Eye Health's (SNEC-GEH) mission ***"To make high quality, holistic eyecare more equitable and accessible through innovation and the cultivation of a vibrant ecosystem of leadership and capacity building"*** detailed by our three main pillars of focus (see below).



With the support of WHO and our various partners, we are dedicated to providing technical support to build the capacity of the eye care workforce to deliver Integrated People-Centred Eye Care (IPEC), including the provision of safe and accessible ophthalmic and optometry services. Our WHO approved courses detailed below are aimed at addressing the needs of primary and secondary eye health workers in areas of need. Task shifting away from ophthalmologists and the use of technology to improve the efficacy or eye care delivery are key principles that are supported by our courses.

Course 1: Primary Eye Care Course for General Medical or Basic Health Professionals

Fully trained ophthalmologists are lacking and unevenly distributed in many countries, and hence primary eye care is often carried out by general medical or nurse practitioners. Often in the basic medical training, ophthalmic education may be lacking. Hence, our course offers the participants an opportunity to upskill themselves in eye care, to be proficient in managing and triaging common and emergency eye conditions.

Course 2: Myopia Webinar Series and Online Course

The myopia epidemic characterised by a global increase in the rate of near-sightedness that threatens long term vision, is becoming a significant public health concern in many countries especially in Asia. Management of myopia is a multidisciplinary effort involving primary, secondary and tertiary eye care. Myopia prevention, control and management is a rapidly developing field. Hence, proper training and education is essential to encourage evidence-based practices in this area.

Course 3: Ophthalmology Resident or Ophthalmologist Refresher Refraction Course

In line with the WHO SPECS 2030 initiative, a global effort to increase the effective refractive error correction, comprehensive training that includes a hands-on practice is essential. This course has been adapted from a course curriculum developed to train ophthalmology residents to perform high quality refraction. Trained ophthalmologists who wish to refresh their refraction skills can also participate.

Course 4: Allied Ophthalmic Technician Program

Innovative models of care employing digital technology increasing rely on ophthalmic imaging. A well-trained workforce of ophthalmic technicians that can obtain an ophthalmic history, conduct basic examination, and perform high quality imaging are essential skills that can be trained even in an individual with no previous medical training. The potential to train allied ophthalmic support staff, who can support task shifting and step-down models of care allows ophthalmologists more time to focus on eye patients that require tertiary care.

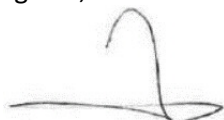
Course 5: Diabetic Retinopathy Grader Course

The rate of diabetic retinopathy (DR), a complication of DM, is rising rapidly to affect 162 million persons in 2045 and is a major cause of irreversible blindness. Early detection and prompt treatment of DR can reduce the impact of disease and progression. There is a lack of accessible and effective DR screening programs in resource-limited settings. DR screening with fundus photos has the potential improve the accuracy and standardisation of DR screening allowing data to be collected on the prevalence of DR and other ocular diseases. However, the grading of retinal colour fundus photos (CFPs) is manpower intensive and in many countries are only done by ophthalmologists. Task shifting to train a non-medical or other primary healthcare workers to effectively and accurately grade CFP for DR will improve the efficacy of DR screening and allow ophthalmologists and retinal specialists to focus on treating patients with significant diabetic eye disease.

These WHO approved courses offered by SNEC-GEH are only a small representative of the varied training and education courses that we have on offer. We encourage any institution, health practice, governmental or non-governmental organisations to contact us if they are interested in participating in these courses. We will also be happy to explore a train the trainer models and adaptation of the course curriculum for local contexts, if there is a need to scale up and sustain these courses. Also, if there are other key areas where training is required that are not included in this list of courses, please contact us and we can explore the other training and education opportunities.

We look forward to many meaningful collaborations with WHO's support!

Kind regards,



Clinical Associate Professor Anna CS TAN
Director of SNEC- Global Eye Health

Primary Eye Care Course for General Medical or Basic Health Professionals

Course information

Overview

This course provides training for general medical professionals or basic health professionals who want to practice step-down care in primary and secondary eye care settings.

The objectives of the course:

- To train the candidate to independently run subsidized general eye clinics under guided autonomy or primary eye care clinics.
- To equip the candidate with clinical skills in eye examination using the slit lamp, binocular indirect microscopy, visual field, pupil examination, and extraocular motility.
- To educate the candidate to understand indication(s) and interpretation of various ophthalmic investigations and services e.g. HVF, OCT macula, OCT RNFL, OCT GCIPL, and orthoptics, so that they can interpret reports performed in tertiary centres.
- To achieve clinical competency in diagnosing and managing all common and emergency eye conditions and basic triage of more complex ones.

Course duration

1-month.

Learning Mode

E-lectures, Hybrid (in person & online course), In-person under supervision skill training.

Certificates

A certificate of completion will be awarded to participants who successfully complete the course.

What you'll learn

Overview of the 1-month program:

- Release of e-lectures: Pre-programme e-lectures will be made accessible to candidates before the program commencement.
- Phase 1 (Reporter) (Week 1 and 2): Develop clinical skills to report clinical findings accurately and understand indication(s) for adjunctive investigations and services.
- Phase 2 (Interpreter + simple Manager) (Weeks 3 and 4): Learn to accurately diagnose common and emergency eye conditions and develop a basic management plan.
- End of week 4: A&E test on acute eye conditions

Who this course is for

General medical professionals or basic health professionals.

Pre-requisites: Medical degree or healthcare-related degree.

Course contents and assessments

Module 1: E-lecture topics

- Approach to gradual blurring of vision
- Approach to sudden loss of vision

- Approach to common surgical retinal conditions
- Approach to acute painful red eye and cornea anatomy
- Approach to diplopia: cranial nerve palsies
- Approach to disc swelling, pale disc and neuro-ophthalmic emergencies
- Glaucoma: Approach to common glaucoma conditions and emergency
- Glaucoma: Introduction to investigations for glaucoma
- Cataract and cataract surgery
- Approach to common medical retina conditions (Diabetic retinopathy, wet AMD)
- Retina: Approach to OCT Macula/FFA/ICG interpretation
- Approach to common uveitic conditions (AAU, scleritis, episcleritis, endophthalmitis screen)
- Oculoplastics: Ocular injuries and trauma
- Oculoplastics: Approach to proptosis and lid swelling
- Oculoplastics: Approach to common oculo conditions (ptosis, chalazion, distichiasis etc)
- Approach to common paediatric conditions, including exam techniques

Hybrid (in person & online course)

Topic (in person): Physical examination	Online course
Orientation to the slit lamp and BIO: GAT, Van Herick, AC activity, gonioscopy, indirect biomicroscopy	Slit lamp photography (Duke-NUS elective module) Basic ophthalmic history and examination (Duke-NUS elective module)
Overview of clinic investigations and documentation: how to function safely and practically in clinic	Introduction to corneal investigations (Online lecture and quiz)
Physical examination: Visual fields and pupils	
Physical examination: Motility, cover testing	

In-person supervised skill training

Module 2: Phase 1 (Reporter)

Week 1: Clinical Skills Development

Trainer to sign off skills log (aim to complete in week 1-2):

Skills:

- Anterior chamber depth (Van Herick)
- Anterior chamber activity
- Relative afferent pupillary defect
- IOP measurement by GAT
- Cataract grading
- Gonioscopy
- Suitability for pupil dilation
- Indications for investigations

Week 2: Clinical Skills Development

Trainer to sign off skills log (aim to complete in week 1-2)

Skills:

- Anterior chamber depth (Van Herick)
- Anterior chamber activity
- Relative afferent pupillary defect
- IOP measurement by GAT

- Cataract grading
- Gonioscopy
- Suitability for pupil dilation
- Indications for investigations
- CDR grading
- Macula assessment
- Peripheral retina assessment
- BIO assessment

Module 3: Phase 2 (Interpreter + simple Manager)

Week 3: Clinical Diagnosis and Management Development

Trainee to keep logbook of patient diagnosis and management:

Skills:

- Interpretation of investigations eg HVF, OCT MAC, OCT RNFL
- Diagnosis
- Basic management plan of eye conditions

Course assessment: A&E test at the end of week 3

Module 4: A&E test on acute eye conditions

Week 4: Clinical Diagnosis and Management Development

Trainee to keep logbook of patient diagnosis and management:

Skills:

- Interpretation of investigations eg HVF, OCT MAC, OCT RNFL
- Diagnosis
- Basic management plan of eye conditions

Course assessment: A&E test debrief to be done with trainee(s)

Planned timelines for course delivery

The course will be delivered as needed.

Organiser:



Myopia Webinar Series and Online Course

Course information

Overview

In line with the World Health Organization's (WHO) mission to strengthen the regional workforce's capacity to deliver 'Integrated People-Centered Eye Care (IPEC) services, the Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC) and Myopia Centre have developed this course. The course is divided into three levels - Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced, each consisting of 3 modules, with a learning duration of 3 hours per module. Designed as a knowledge transfer course with no skills training, it enhances the learner's practical clinical knowledge, covering myopia prevention, control, management, and treatment.

Graduates of this course will be well-positioned at the forefront of myopia advocacy and play a pivotal role in raising public awareness through evidence-based medicine. This course is part of SNEC's ongoing commitment to improving myopia management in the community.

Course duration

3 hours per module.

Learning mode

Fully online.

Certificates

- Participants will receive a Certificate of Completion
- Local participants will be awarded 3 CPE points per level by the Optometrists and Opticianary Board (OOB)
- Overseas participants can submit their certificate(s) to the relevant statutory body for CPE points
- Singapore ophthalmologists and clinicians can register with the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) for CME points under self-study. CME points will be awarded at SMC's discretion

What you'll learn

The course is designed to improve participants' practical clinical knowledge in important areas such as myopia prevention, control, management, and treatment. Upon completing this course, learners can advocate for myopia awareness, promote evidence-based practices, and contribute significantly to public health education. This initiative aligns with SNEC's Myopia Centre of Excellence (MYCE) vision, emphasising ongoing education. This strategic initiative will establish the centre as a local, regional, and global leader in myopia management, empowering the participants to make a real difference in public health.

Webinar Series Integration:

The webinar series will be introduced in conjunction with the release of the online certificate course at all three levels. These webinars will allow trainees to discuss and share their insights and experiences sequentially, fostering a continuous learning environment. Starting in 2025, the webinar series will support the asynchronous MYO course, facilitating knowledge transfer across the region and globally.

Who this course is for

- Ophthalmology and Optometry students

- Opticians
- Optometrists
- Ophthalmologists
- General Practitioners

Pre-requisites: Previous experience in healthcare or eye care delivery.

Course contents

Module 1: Basic Level

- Eye anatomy and how the components of the eye influence refractive error
- The different forms of myopia
- The environmental and genetic associations of myopia
- How lifestyle changes can help to modify myopia risk
- How and why myopia prevalence differs across the world
- What roles could different people play in preventing the onset of myopia in the communities to minimise the impact of myopia in the future?

Webinar theme: Myopia - Basic Concepts

Module 2: Intermediate Level

- Latest up-to-date evidence on the various childhood myopia control modalities, including environmental, pharmacological, optical, and light interventions
- Patient suitability for each type of myopia control modality
- Deeper insight into targeted history taking, physical examination and investigations to tailor practitioners' clinical management
- Interpretation of investigation results such as axial length, optical coherence tomography
- Integrate investigation results into practitioners' management plans.

Webinar theme: Interventions and Investigations for Myopic Patients

Module 3: Advanced Level

- Clinical cases to illuminate the approach towards childhood and adult myopia
- Application of principles discussed in practitioners' own practice
- Complications and socioeconomic impact of myopia in adulthood.

Webinar theme: Management of Childhood and Adult Myopia

Course assessment

End-of-module quizzes will enable participants to gauge their understanding of the material. Short course assessment segments were developed with a pedagogy expert to ensure learners can detect gaps in their knowledge while applying the knowledge gained throughout the course.

Planned timelines for course delivery

- Pilot launch: May 2024.
- Full launch: January 2025. Participants can sign up for all 3 levels at once, and webinars will be held quarterly.

Organiser:



Supported by:

EssilorLuxottica



Ophthalmology Resident or Ophthalmologist Refresher Refraction Course

Course information

Overview

This course is an initiative largely supported by the optometrists of SNEC. This learning support gradually developed especially in recent years to become more formal and assessable in the form of online teaching materials to help ophthalmology residents understand the refraction flow and prepare them for their refraction certification.

Course duration

Approximately 2 to 4 weeks, depending on the learner's profile.

Learning Mode

Flipped classroom (eLearning, Practical hands-on component).

Certificates

Completion of Refraction Certification.

What you'll learn

This course is designed to provide a flexible learning experience, with online content that can be accessed at the learner's own pace. The online theory component takes approximately 2h of combined reading. This is complemented by practical hands-on training sessions, where residents can apply the concepts learned in real-life settings under the guidance of optometrists. The provision for practical training consists of open sessions inclusive of an available room and equipment (i.e Trial lens, Lens rack, Retinoscope) and simulated eye for practice within working hours. By the end of the course, ophthalmology residents should have a better understanding of how refraction is conducted.

Who this course is for

Ophthalmology residents or ophthalmologists that requires refresher training.

Pre-requisites: basic knowledge of the anatomical structure of the eye and understanding of refractive status.

Course contents

Module 1: Introduction

- Usage of Optometry rooms
- Practice on equipment processes

Module 2: Lensometry and Lens Neutralization

- Lensometer
- Functions of a lensometer
- Verification of Spectacles
- Lens Neutralization
- Learning summary

- Identify the parts and functions of a manual lensometer
- Determine the steps for measuring all types of spectacle lens prescription using a manual lensometer
- Determine the steps for measuring all types of spectacle lens prescription through lens neutralization
- Use transposition to obtain the final spectacle lens prescription.

Module 3: Objective Refraction

- Introduction to Refraction
- Introduction to Retinoscopy
- Retinoscopy: A Step-by-Step Procedure
- Retinoscopy Stimulator
- Learning Summary
 - Outline the principles behind objective refraction
 - Briefly describe the physics that underpins retinoscopy
 - Know how to perform correct retinoscopy technique using different methods to attain accurate result of refractive error and record appropriately.

Module 4: Subjective Refraction

- What is Subjective Refraction
- Instruments used and Steps in Subjective Refraction
- Near Addition
- Learning Summary
 - Outline the indications for performing subjective refraction
 - State the key principles of subjective refraction
 - Demonstrate the steps taken in subjective refraction in sequential order
 - Relate each of the subjective refraction steps to the key principles of subjective refraction
- References and Acknowledgement
- Quiz

Module 5: Visual Acuity

- Visual Acuity
- Snellen Chart
- LogMAR Chart
- Berkeley Rudimentary Vision Test (BRVT)
- Near VA Charts
- Learning Summary
 - Outline the principles behind Visual Acuity
 - Perform accurate distance visual acuity measurement using either Snellen or logMAR charts and record the results appropriately.
 - Identifying the various near charts available, perform accurate near visual acuity measurement and record the results appropriately.

Course assessment

The online course assessment in this program includes formative quizzes at the end of each module. Ophthalmology residents will then take on the summative objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE) curated by their ophthalmology board to assess their competency and understanding on refraction.

Planned timelines for course delivery

This program is designed to be flexible. Residents can complete the eLearning modules and practical components at their own pace, enabling them to plan their learning around their clinical schedule. This flexibility allows residents to prepare ahead of their scheduled OSCE examination.

Acknowledgements:

The SNEC optometrist education team developed the program structure and content.

Organiser:



Allied Ophthalmic Technician Program

Course information

Overview

In line with the mission and principles of the World Health Organization (WHO), this program supports capacity building of the regional workforce to deliver 'Integrated People-Centered Eye Care' (IPEC) services at SNEC and the identified regional eye institution¹ The program is part of the EYRTRAIN initiative led by SNEC Academy, which aims to transform the eyecare workforce in the region by implementing task shifting, upskilling and other strategies to address workforce shortages. This particular regional program will be offered jointly to the ophthalmic workforce in the Philippines, in collaboration with the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (PAO) as the co-organizer and the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) as the pilot training site.

Designed with flexibility as a bespoke program and contextualized to the local context, the Allied Ophthalmic Technician Program (AOP) program uses a modular structure that allows learners to gain knowledge and skills at varying levels: Basic, Advanced 1, and Advanced 2. The curriculum builds on learners' knowledge of the ophthalmic landscape and hones their skills in eye evaluations, investigations, and imaging services.

Course duration

- 3-day Train-the-Trainer (TTT) program
- 4-week Pilot AOP program
- 3-month full AOP program

Learning mode

Blended learning approach combining eLearning, flipped classroom, and clinical skills observation and hands-on practicum.

Certificates

Participants who successfully complete the program will receive a Certificate of Competency.

What you'll learn

- 3-day onsite Train-the-Trainer program
 - This will be an intensive onsite program conducted by SNEC master trainers for the master trainers of the training eye institute of the region.
- 4-week Pilot AOP program
 - The pilot program will be crafted and designed based on a needs assessment, incorporating basic knowledge content and skills. The program will be conducted via a blended mode consisting of eLearning/Zoom lectures, flipped classroom lessons, and an on-site skill practicum. The pilot is conducted by PGH master trainers with support from the SNEC education team. This is a validation effort to assess the feasibility of the proposed program.
- 3-month full AOP program (in discussion)
 - The full program will be conducted modularly, incorporating basic and advanced knowledge and skills into each module. The core program content will be designed based on the 4-month SNEC Duke-NUS Basic Certificate for Ophthalmic Assistants and Technicians, incorporating the

¹ SNEC partnered the Vietnam National Eye Hospital (VNEH) in 2022 and launched the first pilot AOP program of one-month duration at VNEH in July 2022, Hanoi Vietnam. Following that, SNEC also partnered RSCM Kirana in 2023 and launched a pilot AOP program of one-month duration at RSCM Kirana in February 2023, Jakarta Indonesia.

training needs, and contextualizing it to their eyecare landscape and scope of work. Similar to the pilot AOP, it combines e-learning/zoom lectures, flipped classroom lessons, and an on-site skill practicum by PGH master trainers with support from the education team at SNEC.

Each module includes review and feedback sessions at the end of each module and program to evaluate for program improvements.

Who this course is for

This program is designed for ophthalmic nurses and allied ophthalmic personnel at all levels. Preference is given to those already working in an eyecare setting.

Pre-requisite: At least 1 year of service in the ophthalmic setting.

Course contents

Basic Module: Introduction to Ophthalmic Assessment

- Introduction to Ophthalmology
- Basic Eye evaluation: history taking, instillation of eye drops, application of ointment, pupil dilation process
- Patient Safety Issues
- Anatomy and Physiology of the eye
- Functional eye test
- PFAER & Fall Risk Assessment
- Non-Contact Tonometry
- Low Vision
- Overview of Ophthalmic Investigations
- Chronic Conditions

Basic Module: Skills

- History taking
- Functional eye test
- Patient and family assessment education and fall risk assessment
- Instillation of Eye Drops and Dilatation

Advanced Module 1: Basics in Pathophysiology and Investigations

- Diseases and Disorders of the Retina/ Vitreous / Lens
- Diseases and Disorders of the Anterior chamber, Angle & Drainage System, Glaucoma
- Diseases and Disorders of the Systemic Diseases
- Diseases and Disorders of the Uveal tract
- Diseases and Disorders of the Extra-ocular Muscles Pediatric Eye Conditions
- Diseases and Disorders of the Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Diseases and Disorders of the Conjunctiva & Sclera
- Diseases and Disorders of the Orbit, Lacrimal System & Eyelids
- Microbiology
- Pharmacology
- Visual Field & Demonstration of Confrontation Visual Field test
- Imaging - Optical Coherence Tomography
- Basic Biometry
- Corneal Topography

Advanced Module 1: Skills

- Visual Field
- Optical Coherence Tomography
- Basic Biometry
- Corneal Topography

Advanced Module 2: Basic Ophthalmic Medical Technology skills and competency

- Contact Lens
- Refraction (Retinoscopy and refinement; Lensometry)
- Optics & Spectacles; Pupil Assessment
- Ocular Emergencies & Trauma
- Basic triaging
- Orthoptics
- Cirrus-OCT
- Imaging - External photograph
- Imaging – FFA
- Imaging - Fundus photography

Advanced Module 2: Skills

- Automated Lensometry
- Cirrus-OCT
- Imaging FFA & Fundus photography
- Imaging - External photograph

Course assessment

This program uses both formative and summative assessments to assess learners' progress. The program assessments include quizzes, written examinations, presentations, and a modified objective structured clinical examination (OSCE).

Planned timelines for course delivery

Twice a year in the Philippines.

Organiser:



Singapore National
Eye Centre
SingHealth



Co-organiser: Supported by:



Imagine Your Happiness

Diabetic Retinopathy Grader Course

Course information

Overview

As the global prevalence of diabetes rises, the demand for specialized eye care services, including diabetic retinopathy screening, is increasing. This has led to the need for non-medical graders who can assess retinal images for diabetic retinopathy (DR) efficiently and accurately. In Singapore, for example, the National Diabetic Eye Screening Program relies on non-medical graders from two specialized reading centres.

The objective of the course is to train eye health workers and other non-medical professionals to acquire and grade images for diabetic retinopathy, according to standardized protocol.

Course duration

- Primary Grader: 4 to 5 months.
- Secondary Grader: 1 to 2 months

Learning Mode

Online

Certificates

A Primary Grader or Secondary Grader Certificate of Completion will be provided at the end of this course.

What you'll learn

- Primary Grader: you will be provided with initial training to be allowed to grade cases.
- Secondary Grader: you will be provided with Singapore Integrated Diabetic Retinopathy Programme (SiDRP) training.

Who this course is for

- Primary grader
Eye health workers and other non-medical professionals (e.g. Ophthalmic Technicians or Nurses)
- Secondary grader
Eye health workers and other non-medical professionals (e.g. Ophthalmic Technicians or Nurses), with a minimum 2 years of grading experience

Pre-requisites:

- Primary grader
 - Diploma or degree in Science, or Ophthalmic imaging relevant background
- Secondary grader
 - 2 years prior experience as a primary grader with consistent good performance in audit (sens/specs >85%)
 - Minimum number of cases read: 5,000
 - Nominated by clinical lead

Course contents and assessment

Module 1: Primary grader

- E-lectures

Overview of Singapore's national diabetic screening program structure, its protocol and imaging guidelines and Reading Standard Operating Procedures.

- Tutorials

Detecting features in other eye conditions such as age-related macula degeneration and glaucoma suspect and applying the guidelines.

- Pre-assessment

Evaluate competency in detection and interpretation of diabetic retinopathy clinical signs seen on retinal images.

- Primary Grader Assessment

Grading test of 100 eyes. To pass the assessment, the trainee would need a minimum 80% score for DR and DME and other visible eye conditions, according to the protocol.

If the trainee does not pass, a second attempt is allowed. If the second attempt is unsuccessful, further training or reassessment will be necessary.

- Audits

Quarterly performance audits

Module 2: Secondary grader (SiDRP training)

- Training

- Secondary Trainees' Quiz

- Consisting of 50 complex fundus Images – (1hr/ 25 images/ per session)

- Passing criteria: Minimum 85% score on the quiz

- Post Quiz- Interactive Session

- Trainees will select up to 5 interesting cases (out of 5000 cases reported) for viva-style examination.

- Secondary Accreditation

- Review of 50 2F images in 2 sessions (1hr /25 images/ /session)

- Passing criteria: Minimum 80% accuracy for accreditation

- No Moderation of marks will be allowed by the Master Trainer

Planned timelines for course delivery

The course will be delivered as needed, with a processing time of 3-4 months for enrolment and course preparation.

Organiser:



ENQUIRIES

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