

Consider a Career in Eye Care

Ophthalmic nurse

Ophthalmic nurses generally work in hospital eye clinics, providing care for people with eye diseases. They have qualified as a nurse before going on to specialise in eyes.

Optometrist

Optometrists are primary health care professionals (also known as opticians). They are trained to examine the eyes to detect defects in vision, ocular diseases, abnormalities, signs of injury and problems with general health e.g. diabetes.

Optical technician

Optical technicians are trained to make or 'glaze' spectacles. They work in an optical lab which may be attached or linked to an optical practice. They may also choose to work for optical manufacturing organisations.

Dispensing optician

Dispensing opticians (DO) advise on, fit and supply the most appropriate spectacles after taking account of each person's visual, lifestyle and vocational needs. They can choose to undergo further training to be able to dispense low vision aids to those who are sight impaired.



Optical assistant

Optical assistants assist with the daily running of an optical practice. Under supervision, they may assist people with choosing frames and lenses. With further training, they may carry out initial assessments before eye examinations. This is a great way to begin a career in eye care.

Contact lens optician

Dispensing opticians (DO) can choose to undergo further training to become a contact lens optician (CLO). They are trained to provide the most suitable contact lenses for their patients, and to monitor a person's eye health following fitting to ensure no complications occur.

Orthoptist

Orthoptists are allied health professionals who specialise in the assessment of visual function, particularly in children, diagnosing and treating defects in eye movement and problems with how the eyes work together.

Ophthalmologist

Ophthalmologists are doctors who diagnose, treat and prevent disorders of the eyes and visual system. They use medical and surgical skills. A medical degree is required before specialising in ophthalmology.

You will find different members of the eye care team working in a variety of settings:

- hospital
- community optical practice
- university e.g. research and education
- community home visits
- optical lab
- industry e.g. contact lens manufacturing companies.

For more information visit:

<https://heiw.nhs.wales/careers/roles/eye-care-team/>
<http://careersville.heiw.wales/>

Each member of the eye care team plays an important role in looking after patients' needs. There are areas of overlap between roles, and excellent teamwork is essential in all work settings.

Each role has different opportunities for progression. There might be the option to undertake further training or qualifications, as well as supervision and management opportunities.



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