

Registration pathways document (Pathway 6)

Pathway 6 – ‘Specialist Optometrist – Ophthalmic Laser Surgeries’

The prescribed qualifications for the registration pathway in the Specialist Optometrist Scope of Practice – Ophthalmic Laser Surgeries to include the following:

- To hold registration in the Optometrist Scope of Practice and not be subject to any conditions;
- To have worked in a hospital ophthalmology department for a minimum of three years with at least 400 hours as a clinician in the relevant cataract and/or glaucoma clinic (as applies);
- To have demonstrated their understanding and comprehensive knowledge in the following specified areas of competence for the safe delivery of ophthalmic laser surgeries to the satisfaction of their supervising ophthalmologist:
 - Comprehensive knowledge of the relevant anatomy and physiology of the eye and adnexa
 - Knowledge of the physics of light and laser, and the penetration of light through ocular tissues
 - An understanding of the interaction of light and living tissue including thermal effects, photocoagulative effects, photoblative effects and photodisruptive effects
 - Knowledge of the wavelengths and powers utilised in ophthalmic lasers for the specific surgery
 - Knowledge of required sterile techniques for performing laser surgery
 - Knowledge of surgical procedure and specialised equipment
 - Knowledge of the risks and benefits for each surgery
 - Knowledge of appropriate management plans for adverse outcomes.
- To have satisfactorily observed a minimum of 20 Nd:YAG capsulotomies and/or Nd:YAG laser periphery iridotomies (as applies) being performed by their supervising ophthalmologist, attested to by their supervising ophthalmologist;
- To have satisfactorily and independently performed a minimum of 20 Nd:YAG capsulotomies and/or 10 Nd:YAG laser periphery iridotomies (as applies) under the supervision of their supervising ophthalmologist, attested to by their supervising ophthalmologist.