

4XXXXX**Demonstrate safe administration of ophthalmic medications**

Kaupae Level	4
Whiwhinga Credit	5
Whāinga Purpose	<p>This skill standard is intended for people who work as ophthalmic technicians supporting eye care services in outpatient, hospital, or community-based settings.</p> <p>People credited with this skill standard can describe medicines used in ophthalmology and their effects. Learners will be able to explain safe procedures for handling, storing, administration and documentation. Learners are able to demonstrate correct instillation technique and ensure that their practice meets the legal and ethical responsibilities of medicine use.</p>

Hua o te ako me Paearu aromatawai | Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Describe medicines used in an ophthalmic setting.	a. Identify commonly used medicines in ophthalmic practice.
	b. Explain how each medicine works in relation to eye anatomy and physiology.
	c. Outline situations where each type of medication may be used.
2. Explain safe practices when working with ophthalmic medicines.	a. Identify correct storage requirements for different types of ophthalmic medications.
	b. Describe safe handling techniques of ophthalmic medications.
	c. Explain expiry guidelines and how to recognise contamination or degradation of medicines.
3. Demonstrate correct instillation technique.	a. Instil eye drops and ointments using correct technique.
	b. Explain the importance of placement, intervals and hygiene.
4. Explain legal and ethical responsibilities related to medicine use.	a. Identify relevant legislation, codes, and workplace policies related to medicine use.

	b. Discuss ethical principles that support safe practice.
	c. Describe the content and use of standing orders in ophthalmic settings.
	d. Describe role boundaries and actions when tasks fall outside defined responsibilities.

Pārongo aromatawai me te taumata paearu | Assessment information and grade criteria

Assessment specifications:

- Learners must demonstrate knowledge and practical skills across seven types of ophthalmic medicines.
- All assessments must be carried out following workplace policies and procedures, legal requirements, and ethical standards.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

- Types of ophthalmic medicines and their uses: mydriatics, cycloplegics, miotics, local anaesthetics, pressure-lowering medications, stains and dyes.
- Pharmacological action: how medicines work in relation to eye structure and function.
- Common uses for each type of medicine.
- Contraindications for each type of ophthalmic medication.
- Considerations for special populations: Pregnancy, breastfeeding, elderly, children.
- Storage requirements for different medicine types, including multi-use and single use.
- Safe handling: hand hygiene, avoiding cross-contamination, checking expiry and integrity.
- Instillation technique: pulling down the lower lid, correct placement, avoiding eye contact.
- Legal and workplace requirements: Medicines Act 1981.
- Standing orders and local procedures: content, application and limitations.
- Documentation practices: recording, batch numbers, times and dosage.
- Ethical responsibilities: informed consent, respecting privacy.
- Knowing boundaries of the role and when to refer.

Rauemi | Resources

- Health and Disability Commissioner. (2023). *Code of Health and Disability Consumers' Rights*. Available at <https://www.hdc.org.nz/your-rights/about-the-code/code-of-health-and-disability-services-consumers-rights/>
- Ledford, J.K., & Lens, A. (2018). *Principles and Practice in Ophthalmic Assisting: A Comprehensive Textbook*. (3rd ed) Slack Incorporated.
- New Zealand Legislation, (2014). *Children's Act 2014*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2014/0040/latest/DLM5501618.html>
- New Zealand Legislation (1981). *Medicines Act 1981*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1981/0118/latest/DLM53790.html>
- New Zealand Legislation. (2015). *Privacy Act 2020*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0031/latest/LMS23223.html>

- Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand. (2022, October). *Ophthalmic Technicians Competency Training Manual*. Department of Ophthalmology.

Pārongo Whakaū Kouna | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa Standard Setting Body	Toitū te Waiora Community, Health, Education, and Social Services Workforce Development Council
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai DASS classification	Community and Social Services> Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Allied Health Assistance
Ko te tohutoro ki ngā Whakaritenga i te Whakamanatanga me te Whakaōritenga CMR	0024

Hātepe Process	Putanga Version	Rā whakaputa Review Date	Rā whakamutunga mō te aromatawai Last date for assessment
Rēhitatanga Registration	1	31 December 2030	N/A
Rā arotake Planned review date	31 December 2030		

Please contact Toitū te Waiora Community, Health, Education, and Social Services Workforce Development Council at qualifications@toitutewaiora.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.