

GOC Guidance

DID YOU KNOW? - LOGISTICS

GOC staff are now working remotely and the GOC office is closed. GOC is no longer taking telephone calls and all enquiries are to be made by email. GOC Fitness to Practise Hearings will no longer be held in person

DID YOU KNOW? REGULATORY STATEMENTS

GOC has signed a joint regulatory statement which recognises that in "highly challenging circumstances, professionals may need to depart from established procedures"

GOC will be publishing a series of statements specific to registrants relating to conduct during the COVID-19 crisis

DID YOU KNOW? SUPPLY OF GLASSES AND CONTACTS AND AFTERCARE

GOC Statement 19 March 2020 on supply of spectacles and contact lenses

Optical Practices should consider sending spectacles and contact lenses by post where there is no clinical need to attend an optical practice and/or if the contact lens specification is current. If there is a clinical need, Optometrists should use their 'professional judgement to decide on the best course of action'

GOC 20 March 2020 Statement on Contact Lens Aftercare

Under s27(3B) Opticians Act, patients must receive aftercare. Registrants must exercise professional judgment as to level of aftercare; could include remote consultation. Important to record aftercare plan & reasoning

GOC Statement 17 April 2020 on the verification of contact lenses specifications

Reasonable attempts should be made to contact the person who provided the original specification to verify. If this is not possible, individuals should use their professional judgement regarding the best course of action. The decision and the individual's reason must be noted in the patient's records

GOC statement updated 1 May 2020

In making the judgement as to whether to provide contact lenses without verifying the specification, the registrant must consider:
1) The ability to contact that person, 2) The ability to access their records, 3) Public health advice at the time in question, 4) Urgency, 5) Relevant clinical advice, 6) Previous clinical knowledge of the patient, 7) Clinical risks

DID YOU KNOW? ESSENTIAL EYE CARE

Urgent/emergency treatment can already be provided, including for patients who experience red eyes, contact lens discomfort and foreign body issues

All routine services are now suspended

Essential eye care can be provided where in the practitioner's judgement, a delay in examination may be detrimental to a patient's sight. This includes if a patient has lost/broken their glasses/contact lenses

DID YOU KNOW? INFECTION CONTROL

NHS guidance states that a cough guard should be used on slit lamps

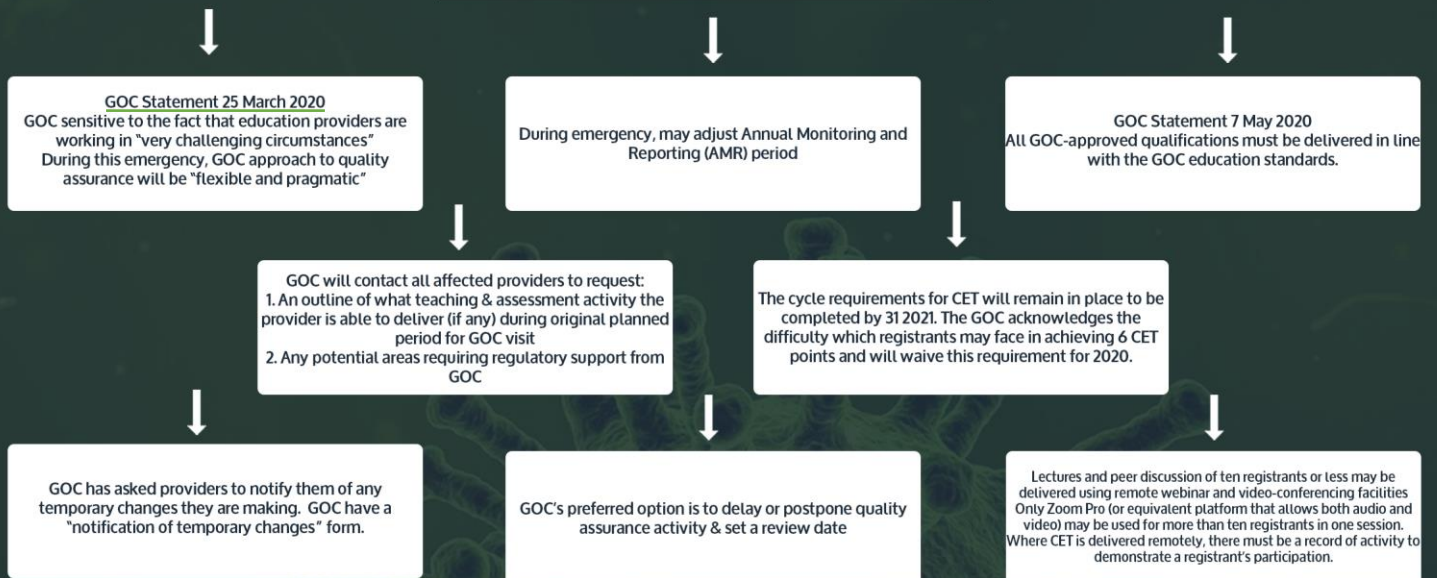
Clinical equipment and door handles should be wiped down and frames should be sanitised

DID YOU KNOW? WORKING IN DIFFERENT SETTINGS

Registrants must satisfy themselves that they are competent to perform the tasks being asked of them, have the necessary training, supervision and PPE for them to do so

Must apply for professional indemnity – it is likely that their current indemnity will only cover where they are carrying out their usual role of an optometrist or dispensing optician

DID YOU KNOW? - EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE



DID YOU KNOW? GOC APPROACH IN FTP DURING COVID-19

