

Senior Optometrist - Retinal Screening

Department: Jersey Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme (JRSP)

Division: Scheduled Care Group

Reports to: Programme Manager (Administrative matters)
and Clinical Lead (Clinical matters)

JE Reference: HCS1072

Grade: CS11

JE Date: 20/12/2021

Job purpose

The Senior Optometrist is a key member of the Retinal Screening Programme and is responsible for delivering quality retinal screening, diagnosis of ophthalmic conditions, monitoring of patients with diabetes and grading of images as well as contributing to the highest standards of clinical governance.

This is a role normally undertaken as part of a Consultant Ophthalmologist's work. The Senior Optometrist will be working independently after suitable training, but will be expected to ask advice from the Clinical Lead if necessary in the most complex cases

Principle areas of responsibility for this role are undertaking Slit Lamp Bio-microscopy (SLB) examinations, assessing Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) scans and Digital Retinal Images (DRI). Grading of images is an integral part of the job, along with clinical audit and contributing to continual service improvement.

Procedures involve the use of specialist ophthalmic instrumentation to a high degree of accuracy. Analysis and interpretation of specialist test results will be necessary in order to provide onwards patient care.

Job specific outcomes

1. Undertake SLB screening clinics to diagnose and refer diabetic retinopathy, cataracts and a range of other ophthalmic conditions as deemed necessary. This includes making patient assessments and clinical decisions regarding patients' eye health, suitability for screening and suitability for treatment. Fundus examination will be carried out using a range of specialist equipment, following assessment of the patient's needs which may be complex.
2. Provide patients with complex written and verbal information about diabetic eye disease and other eye conditions, including cataracts and glaucoma, tailoring the delivery to best suit the needs of the individual patient.
3. To communicate bad news to patients in a sensitive manner.

4. To record detailed patient history, examination and image results in the dedicated screening software. It may be necessary to use various sources of information eg TRAK or GP to establish an accurate history.
5. Undertake assessment of OCT scans and DRI. To make diagnoses and decisions in straightforward and complex cases regarding the optimal outcome for each patient on an individual basis. To refer treatable diabetic retinopathy onwards to the ophthalmology team, providing a detailed referral letter. To diagnose a range of other ophthalmic conditions, and make a decision whether treatment is necessary and refer to ophthalmology if indicated.
- 5 To discuss treatment options with patients.
6. To provide written results letters to patients and their GPs after every appointment.
7. Cover retinal screening clinics in locations across the island in the case of emergency, this will include capturing high quality OCT/DRI and ensuring screening follows Jersey protocols;
8. Undertake clinical audits to support high standards of quality assurance, clinical governance and service development;
9. Mentor and teach screeners to support achievement of accreditation in screening and to help them to continually improve their performance in their screening roles;
10. Be proactive in offering health promotion and participating in health promotion activities;
11. Maintain exacting grading standards by undertaking regular independent external quality assurance tests by means of iTAT (International Test and Training Programme)
12. Close liaison with programme manager and clinical lead, identifying and reporting issues and making constructive suggestions for service improvement.
13. To keep up to date with evidence-based practice, developing new knowledge and skills in own area.

Statutory responsibilities

Active engagement, participation and compliance with any other statutory responsibilities applicable to the role, as amended from time to time.

Organisational structure

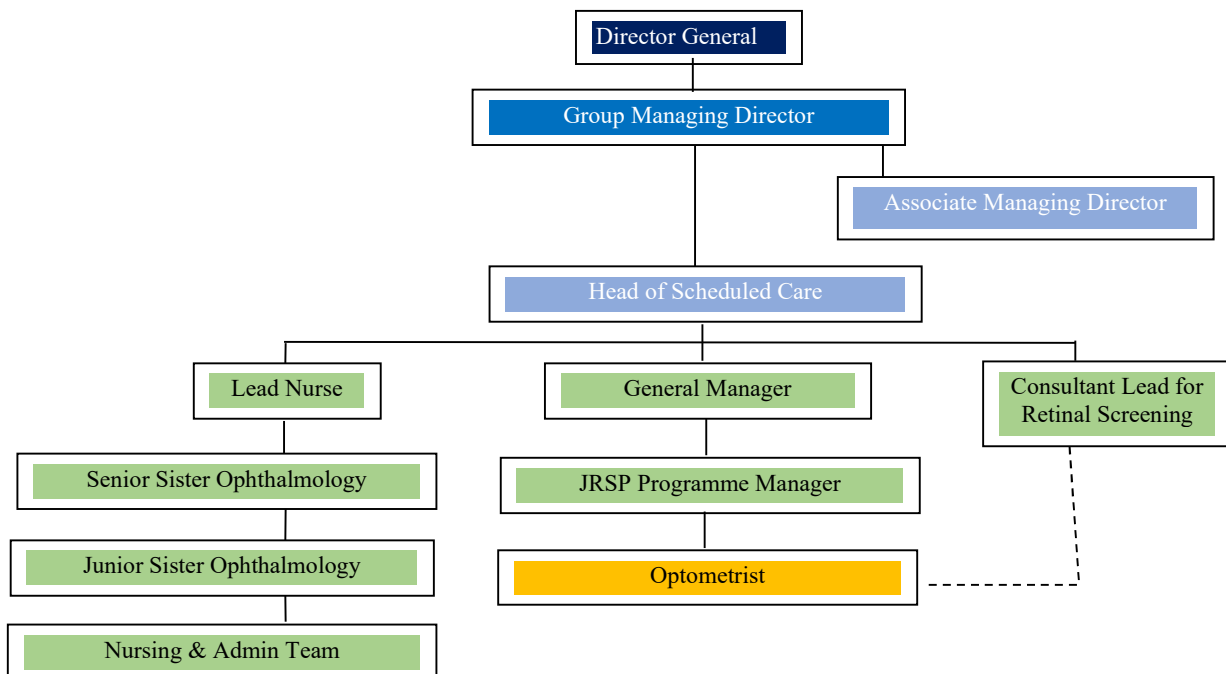
Administrative accountability to the Retinal Screening Programme Manager.

Clinical accountability to the Programme Clinical Lead.



Organisation chart

Retinal Screening Organisational Chart



Person Specification

Specific to the role

ATTRIBUTES	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<p>Qualifications</p>	<p>BSc. Optometry</p> <p>Higher qualifications in OCT digital surveillance and Slit lamp biomicroscopy qualification</p> <p>5 years post registration experience</p>	<p>Previous accreditation as a slit lamp examiner within a diabetic retinal screening programme</p> <p>Diploma in Diabetic Retinal Screening or Health Screening</p> <p>MSc. Optometry module in retinal disease, OR equivalent experience</p>
<p>Knowledge</p>	<p>Specialist and in depth knowledge of diabetic retinopathy disease with a broad knowledge its associated risk factors, and its relationship to other eye conditions.</p>	<p>Knowledge of guidance on diabetic retinal screening and the eye screening agenda across the different programmes in Europe</p>
<p>Technical / Work-based Skills</p>	<p>Excellent slit lamp skills with the ability to undertake Volk lens examination of the retina and other.</p> <p>Good IT skills with ability to understand complex software pathways.</p>	<p>Able to capture and interpret high quality optical coherence tomography scans</p> <p>Audit requirements and processes to ensure continual quality monitoring and self/service improvement</p>
<p>General Skills/Attributes</p>	<p>Excellent communication skills – oral and written.</p> <p>Willingness to learn new skills and adapt to new ways of working to develop an efficient clinical routine.</p> <p>Ability to be flexible and maintain the highest standards of care in a busy clinical environment</p> <p>Ability to understand and manage a range of highly complex facts or situations requiring analysis.</p> <p>Supports the development of and shares learning with other members of staff.</p>	

	Flexible approach to work to maximise and utilise experience and knowledge to deliver the most effective service	
Experience	<p>Experience of assessing retinal pathology from OCT scans / digital retinal images and indirect ophthalmoscopy</p> <p>Experience of delivering high quality care to complex patients with multiple co-existing morbidities</p>	<p>Experience as a senior grader in a diabetic eye screening programme and the ability to manage a large caseload</p> <p>Experience of working within a hospital eye clinic or participation in community based extended scope schemes</p>

Core Accountabilities, Attributes and Behaviour Indicators

Appointees to this role will be required to adhere to and perform their duties in line with the standards identified in the States of Jersey core accountabilities attributes and behaviour indicators.