

General Optical Council

Supervision requirements

It is a requirement for those supervising trainees or those undertaking delegated activities to be able to demonstrate to the GOC that the supervision is *adequate*.

We define 'adequate supervision' as provided by a registrant who:

- is sufficiently qualified and experienced to themselves undertake the functions they are supervising;
- is not only on the premises but in a position to oversee the work undertaken and to intervene if necessary in order to ensure protection of the patient;
- must retain clinical responsibility for the patient;
- must ensure that no untoward consequences to the detriment of the patient can arise from the actions of a person who is being supervised;
- must ensure compliance with all legal requirements governing the activity.

Additional requirements for supervision of trainees undertaking practice based learning

Trainees undertaking practice-based learning must practice under the supervision of an appropriately qualified, registered and approved supervisor.

To supervise you must:

- Have at least two years recent and relevant post qualification practical experience;
- Have maintained a minimum of two years continuous GOC registration;
- Comply with the GOC code of conduct in their professional practice;
- Ensure that your students are registered with the GOC;
- Meet the approval criteria of Providers;
- Provide continuous personal supervision, i.e. be in the practice when the student is in professional contact with patients and be able to intervene as necessary;
- Support, observe and mentor;
- Provide a sufficient and suitable learning environment;
- Ensure the student has access to the appropriate equipment to meet the requirements of the Route to Registration;
- Be familiar with the assessment requirements, guidelines and regulations of the Route to Registration;
- Ensure that when the student is in professional contact with patients they are clearly identified as a trainee under supervision and that the identity of the supervisor is also made clear to the patient.