

41049 Perform ophthalmic technician procedures

Kaupae Level	4
Whiwhinga Credit	15
Whāinga Purpose	<p>This 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 will be able to perform ophthalmic technician procedures, while communicating effectively with patients and whānau, adapting practice to their individual cultural, health and physical needs.</p> <p>This skill standard may be used in programmes leading to New Zealand qualifications and the Ophthalmic Technician Practice (Micro-credential) (ID 129568-1).</p>

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

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Perform ophthalmic technician procedures.	a. Prepare the clinical environment for the procedure being performed.
	b. Communicate in a culturally safe manner to prepare a patient for ophthalmic testing procedures.
	c. Apply tikanga to support and position a patient respectfully and professionally.
	d. Demonstrate competency in mandatory ophthalmic procedures in a culturally safe manner.
	e. Record and report observations and test results using appropriate terminology.
	f. Maintain equipment and the clinical environment.
	g. Reflect on practice to improve service quality and cultural safety.

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

- Learners must demonstrate practical competence in all the following mandatory ophthalmic procedures: visual acuity, colour testing, focimetry, autorefraction, corneal topography, biometry, visual field testing, tonometry (non-contact, including Icare), optical coherence tomography (OCT), wide-field retinal photography.
- Practical assessment must be carried out by an Orthoptist, Optometrist, Ophthalmologist, Ophthalmic Nurse, experienced Ophthalmic Technician or Medical Photographer who holds verified competencies.
- Evidence provided for assessment must demonstrate compliance with relevant workplace policies and procedures.
- Learners must demonstrate tikanga and cultural safety throughout their interactions.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved.

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content**Preparing the clinical environment**

- Health and safety procedures for preparing clinical environments.
- Correct setup and use of ophthalmic equipment.
- Infection prevention and control: PPE use, workspace cleanliness, preparation of instruments, disposal of materials.

Preparing a patient

- Confirming the patient identity, common mistakes and ethical issues.
- Confirming patient history, what information needs to be collected and what is the information used for.
- Privacy and confidentiality requirements (Privacy Act 2020).
- Informed consent, purpose and process.
- Communication styles, and the importance of checking for understanding.
- Culturally appropriate greetings and non-verbal communication.
- Involving whānau in care decisions.
- Managing patient anxiety or discomfort.
- Incorporating tikanga when engaging with patients and whānau during preparation.
- Maintaining patient dignity.
- Health literacy and the use of plain language to explain procedures.

Applying tikanga when conducting procedures

- Tikanga Māori, understanding tapu and noa, in relation to the head, in supporting and positioning patients respectfully and safely.
- Building trust and rapport (manaakitanga, whakawhanautanga) with patients and whānau.

Mandatory ophthalmic procedures

- Visual acuity, colour testing, focimetry, autorefractometry, corneal topography, biometry, visual field testing, tonometry (non-contact, including Icare), OCT, wide-field retinal photography.

Recording and reporting results

- Accurate use of ophthalmic terminology and clinical language.
- Documentation policies and procedures.
- Electronic patient management systems.

Maintaining equipment and the clinical environment

- Standard operating procedures and safety protocols.
- Safe handling and transportation of ophthalmic devices.
- Routine maintenance and calibration of ophthalmic equipment.
- Safe storage of equipment, reusable items and disposal of single-use items.

Reflecting on own practice

- Adapting interactions during procedures to meet individual cultural or health needs.
- Responding to patient questions and concerns.
- Personal bias and communication style.
- Strategies for improving cultural responsiveness through reflective practice.
- Opportunities to improve service quality.

Rauemi | Resources

- Durie, M. (1994). *Whaiora: Māori health development*. Oxford Univ. Press.
- 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.
- Māori and Pacific Peoples Eye Health | RANZCO. (2025, July 31). RANZCO. <https://ranzco.edu/home/community-engagement/maori-and-pacific-peoples-eye-health/>
- 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. (2020). *Privacy Act 2020*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0031/latest/LMS23223.html>
- Wepa, D. (2022). *Cultural safety in Aotearoa New Zealand* (3rd ed.). Cambridge University Press

Pārongo Whakaū Kounga | 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	18 December 2025	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	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.