

41050 Administer 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 will be able to administer ophthalmic medications by identifying the medicines and their mode of action, handling them safely, performing correct instillation techniques, and meeting all legal, ethical, and professional responsibilities associated with their use.</p> <p>This skill standard may be used in programmes leading to New Zealand qualifications and Ophthalmic Technician Practice (Micro-credential) (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. Administer ophthalmic medications.	a. Identify commonly used medicines in ophthalmic practice and explain their mode of action.
	b. Identify correct storage requirements for different types of ophthalmic medications.
	c. Describe safe handling techniques of ophthalmic medications.
	d. Explain expiry guidelines and how to recognise contamination or degradation of medicines.
	e. Demonstrate correct instillation technique for eye drops and ointments.
	f. Explain legal, ethical and workplace responsibilities related to the use of ophthalmic medicines.

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 as detailed within the scope of the ophthalmic technician.
- Evidence provided for assessment must demonstrate compliance with relevant workplace policies and procedures.

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.
- Mode of 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. (2020). *Privacy Act 2020*. Available at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0031/latest/LMS23223.html>.

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	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.