

Children's Hospital Colorado

Pediatric Optometry Specialty Care Residency Supervision Protocol

The Pediatric Optometry Specialty Care residency at Children's Hospital Colorado is a post-graduate optometric education program created to provide the highest level of primary and secondary pediatric vision care. The setting offers a multi-specialty, high-volume, progressive learning environment, allowing the resident to become proficient in all aspects of pediatric optometry. In addition to managing their personal clinical schedules, the sub-specialty nature of the hospital requires the resident to consult and co-manage cases with in-hospital specialists. Therefore, clinical competency and credentialing is of highest concern when increasing resident responsibilities throughout the program. The progression of resident autonomy, or participation in direct patient care independent of another provider while at Children's Hospital Colorado, is determined by direct observation by the residency supervisor using the following guidelines:

Step One: Completion of all required Orientation coursework as determined by the Human Resource Dept. at Children's Hospital Colorado. Such coursework includes orientation to clinic layout, patient flow, proper use of administrative and technical support staff, use of electronic medical records, proper coding/billing, online training modules covering hospital safety regulations, and updating all necessary immunizations. While accomplishing these tasks, the resident will shadow the attending physician for demonstration of normal clinical operations, charting and use of ancillary clinical instrumentation. Step one is expected to last for approximately ten (10) days to two (2) weeks.

Step Two: The resident will begin direct patient care and discuss each patient encounter with the residency supervisor. Patient care will include those patients previously scheduled on the supervisor's clinical schedule regardless of complexity of the case. Each case presentation from the resident will include comprehensive charting, interpretation of all ancillary testing order/performed, final assessment and plan of action. During Step Two, the residency supervisor will repeat all or part of the patient examination as to concur with or dispute the resident's assessment. At no time during this period is the resident to examine and dismiss a patient without consent of the residency supervisor. It is anticipated that Step Two will continue for two (2) months.

Step Three: The resident will be granted increased autonomy with direct patient care based on supervisor observation during Step Two. At Children's Hospital Colorado, an attending physician is always physically present in clinic when the pediatric optometry resident is examining patients. Therefore, the resident may request a patient be re-examined and/or chart reviewed/discussed with the attending physician during any stage of their program. However, Step Three allows the resident to independently triage, examine and dismiss patients as necessary. Feedback to the resident (if warranted) will follow the supervisor's review and signing of the patient encounter immediately at the conclusion of the exam. In addition, during Step Three the resident will be expected to order appropriate labs and imaging, as well as, relaying testing results to the caregiver when appropriate. Step Three is expected to continue for approximately six (6) months.

Step Four: The resident will be granted full autonomy with regard to patient care in clinic, emergency room consults and in-patient evaluations. The resident will also be given opportunity to precept medical residents and provide lectures in the Univ. of Colorado Medical School if desired. Initiation of Step Four is solely dependent on the level of demonstrated clinical competence. It is anticipated that the resident be granted full autonomy nine (9) months into his/her program.