

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 with 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 and other attendings using the following guidelines:

Step One: Completion of all required orientation coursework as determined by the Human Resource Department at Children's Hospital Colorado and University of Colorado School of Medicine. 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 electronic medical records, 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 attending physician. Patient care will include those patients previously scheduled on the attending's clinical schedule regardless of complexity of the case. Each case presentation from the resident will include comprehensive charting, interpretation of all ancillary testing ordered and performed, and final assessment and plan. During Step Two, the attending will repeat all or part of the patient examination 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 the consent of the attending physician. It is anticipated that Step Two will continue for two (2) to three (3) months, but this is subject to each resident, and some residents may take longer to complete Step Two. Once the residency supervisor feels confident the resident can examine the patient appropriately, they will move on to Step Three.

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 a select number of patients as necessary. During Step Three, the resident will still be seeing other patients throughout the day that the attending will again repeat all or part of the patient examination on (as was the case in Step Two). This allows attendings to continue to monitor resident progress and provide feedback. Feedback to the resident will follow the attendings/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: This is a continuation of Step Three. The resident will still independently see a select number of patients (and this number may increase depending on the resident) and is anticipated to start at nine (9) months into his/her program. The resident will still see a number of patients that the attending will continue to reassess; this aspect of the program continues throughout the entirety of the year. This allows us to provide continued feedback to the resident and ensure there are no gaps in care. The expectation of Step Four is for the resident to feel more confident in their examinations and to rely less on the attendings, although we remain at their disposal throughout the entirety of the program.