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Media Release

Online program for glaucoma diagnosis

The Australian College of Optometry has released the first in a planned series of unique online programs for optometrists starting with the Glaucoma *self*-Assessment Program, ACO-GAP.

This approach to self-reflective education enables optometrists to tailor ongoing learning and education based on identified learning gaps to enable better patient care.

Developed by ACO optometrists for optometrists and piloted with the wider optometry community (including ACO members), the new ACO-GAP enables optometrists to self-assess their knowledge of glaucoma and ability to provide an initial diagnosis within a simulated and timed patient consultation.

The ACO- GAP and subsequent planned programs for diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration and anterior eye aim to ultimately support the delivery of best practice eye health care.

The new program will enable optometrists to select ongoing education based on evidence based data related to their knowledge and level of skill development.

The ACO- GAP takes between 45 – 75 minutes to complete and provides immediate scores against 9 core skills.

The optometrist completes a series of 90 questions that mimic the clinical process of diagnosis and will receive an immediate feedback score and a benchmarked score against others who have completed the program. The whole process is confidential.

Maureen O’Keefe , Chief Executive Officer from the ACO said” it is designed as a reflective educational tool and will be particularly valuable for practicing optometrists who seek to identify learning opportunities and test their skills against industry standards and their peers”

Early career optometrists who may not have had extensive experience identifying specific eye conditions such as glaucoma and optometrists who may be returning to the workforce may find it useful as a refresher tool or avenue to select further education. The ACO- GAP is also expected to be a valuable development and training tool for employees.

The program aims to facilitate learning, reinforce best practice standards and provide a guide for further professional development and training needs. The diagnosis and treatment is rated based on industry best practice.

The user obtains a successful score, or is redirected back to redo the test and other learning education may be suggested. After completion of the program the optometrist can reassess their performance free of charge within 12 months.

Successful completion of the diagnostics skills assessment program entitles the user to a certificate of completion from the Australian College of Optometry and CPD points.

Each program costs AU100 plus GST and is redeemable on other ACO education for a limited time.

Further information is available at www.aco.org.au

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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