



THE COLLEGE OF
OPTOMETRISTS

Education Team
General Optical Council

22 May 2025

Dear Education Team

Re: Quality Assurance Visit to Therapeutics Common Final Assessment (Independent Prescribing), December 2024

Thank you for allowing the College of Optometrists the opportunity to formally respond to the 2024 Panel report.

The report is factually correct but is not properly able to reflect the concerns of the College about the outcome and consequences of the visit.

It is the view of the college, acknowledged by the panel during the visit, that most of the conditions set by the Panel are to address weaknesses in the Handbook for Independent Prescribing (2008), rather than weaknesses in the College's provision. The high number of conditions have also led to an artificially inflated risk judgement resulting in a significantly shortened period before the next scheduled visit.

We feel this outcome reflects unfairly on the quality of the College's provision. Equally, we are disappointed that the GOC has taken an approach that fails to acknowledge that the conditions are addressing matters (primarily lack of Handbook clarity) previously considered to be responsibilities for the GOC in relation to the IP qualification process.

Kind regards

Sandra Holmes

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Deputy Director of Education, Regulated Qualifications