Background
A proportion of eye clinic patients have stable eye conditions which require observation and minimal intervention. The Supplementary Primary Eyecare Clinic (SPEC) was initiated to manage these patients.

Objectives
- To train and utilise optometrists as physician extenders to manage stable eye conditions in SPEC.
- Free up appointment slots for new or urgent cases & allow ophthalmologists more time to manage complicated eye diseases.

Methods
- A Training & Accreditation Program (conjoint with TTH) was implemented to train suitable optometrists and to ensure clinical competency for running SPEC.
- Detailed referral guidelines were used to ensure correct patient transfers to SPEC.
- A patient satisfaction survey was done to evaluate SPEC.
- A doctor satisfaction survey was also done to evaluate the optometrists’ competency level.

Results
- High accreditation standard (passing score >90%) was required.
- 5 optometrists were accredited to do SPEC.
- All passed with high scores (refer to table below) & were assessed on an average of 209 eyes (range, 201 – 245).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Average Score (%)</th>
<th>Range (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goldmann Applanation Tonometry</td>
<td>94.44</td>
<td>92.07-95.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slitlamp exam</td>
<td>97.45</td>
<td>96.46-99.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relative afferent pupillary defect</td>
<td>99.80</td>
<td>99-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Herrick</td>
<td>97.17</td>
<td>95-98.53</td>
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Survey results
- Mean patient satisfaction score was 4.56/ 5 (n=58).
- Mean doctor satisfaction score was 4.97/ 5 (n= 5 , 30 sessions).

Project Impact
- High patient satisfaction scores attained. Patients found optometrists more approachable & give more detailed explanation.
- Eye Clinic lead time reduced by 33.2%: mean(X bar) lead time decreased from 42.17 to 28.17 days.
- Doctors are able to focus more on complicated eye conditions.
- Optometrists will raise their professional profiles thus potentially increasing their job satisfaction.
- Manpower Cost Savings: The savings of using an optometrist instead of a doctor to run SPEC is $65,731.80 per annum.
- Organisation: The Eye Clinic has increased revenue from taking in more cases.
- Spread: The trained optometrists are deployed to provide second level eye care of Community & Home Eye Screening Service (CHESS) at Wellness Kampung & NTUC Kampung Admiralty.

Sustainability
- Standardised workflow & referral guidelines.
- Continuous upgrading & updating of the referral guidelines based on evidence-based medicine & best practices.
- Patient satisfaction surveys every 6 months.
- Doctor satisfaction surveys every 6 months to monitor clinical competency.
- To increase the weekly SPEC sessions to accommodate the increasing number of stable eye cases.
- Training of new optometrists to ensure clinical competency in running SPEC.

Conclusion
SPEC is well received, safe, effective and cost-lowering model of care to manage stable eye conditions, using trained optometrists as ophthalmologist extenders.