

Ophthalmology Referral Guidelines February 2020

These guidelines enable referrals to be made effectively in the new hospital system; the referrer should also be familiar with the referral pathways on the following page

CONDITIONS FOR URGENT ERU REFERRAL

Signs and symptoms present for less than 2 weeks and suggesting the following:-

Sudden Recent Loss of vision (<48hrs)

- Retinal detachment (macula on or off)
- Retinal tear
- PVD symptoms with no tear but with Tobacco Dust
- Significant pre-retinal haemorrhage
- CRAO or Major branch RAO
- CRVO
- Optic neuritis / AION
- Unexplained sudden loss of vision
- Post operative problems < 4 weeks post op
- Suspected temporal arteritis with visual loss in one eye

Acute Painful red eye

- Penetrating injury
- Corneal ulcer
- Severe Uveitis
- AACG
- Severe trauma (blunt or chemical)
- Orbital Cellulitis
- Scleritis
- Severe viral keratoconjunctivitis

Sudden onset ocular motility defect

Symptomatic IOP >32mmHg

CONDITIONS FOR SOON 2-5 WEEK REFERRAL VIA THE REFERRAL ASSESSMENT SERVICE (RAS) USING GOS18 VIA PATIENT'S GP **NOT DIRECT REFERRAL**

- Minor vessel occlusion
- Loss of vision (>2/52 duration)
- Macular Hole – recent onset
- CSCR
- Episcleritis causing concern
- Ocular cancers – basal cell carcinoma (< 6 weeks referral); squamous cell carcinoma & Intraocular tumours - GP will refer on cancer pathway.

EYE REFERRAL UNIT (ERU, formerly ARC)

Urgent referrals from MECS using Optomanager and NHS Mail in Wolverhampton are received and triaged at ERU and will be seen within a few days (not necessarily 24 or 72 hours) depending on the condition. *Note that appointments in ERU are limited and under great pressure, and the clinic should never be used as a general/routine referral point. These guidelines are intended to help you refer safely and appropriately whilst working effectively with our hospital colleagues.*

EYE CASUALTY at ERU

A walk –in service is available at ERU but should only be used for emergency conditions such as significant corneal ulcer with reduced vision and hypopyon; endophthalmitis, etc. This service is extremely busy and you should be careful to refer appropriately. This service is available weekdays 8am-5pm and weekends 8am-4pm. Outside these hours, refer to ED (formerly A&E)

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT at New Cross (ED, formerly A & E)

The optometrist should be aware that certain cases should be referred directly to ED and not to ophthalmology, these cases include

- Papilloedema with symptoms
- Stroke (very recent)
- III nerve palsy with pain

REFERRALS VIA REFERRAL ASSESSMENT SERVICE (RAS)

All non-urgent must be sent by GOS18 to GP and will be triaged within 3-5 days of being received by the Consultant at WEI; provided the letter is clear, 'soon' referrals can be assessed appropriately.

WEEKEND REFERRALS

Referrals sent using the email system from MECS to ERU will be assessed promptly on weekdays, you should be aware that this is not guaranteed at the weekend. For emergency situations on Saturday and Sunday you should phone ahead to ERU and be prepared to ask the patient to attend on foot with referral letter in hand.

THE REFERRAL LETTER

For effective management your referral letter MUST contain the following:-

- Symptoms
- Duration
- Signs
- Which eye
- Reason for referral
- Accurate patient details

SUSPECTED WET AMD

Referrals via the 2-week fax pathway. Email is not in use for this pathway.

SUSPECTED GLAUCOMA REFERRALS

No longer go to HES but to GERS community optometrists - use the GERS pathway to primary care optometrists. *For more details on all referrals see LOC website, wolvesloc.net, or email wolvesloc@gmail.com*

CCG: Wolverhampton

1) Name of Hospital: Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary

Enhanced services referrals	Email address	Fax number	Wolves optoms seeing Wolves CCG GP patient should:-	Optoms outside Wolves seeing Wolves CCG GP Px should:-
Emergency referral	rwh-tr.optometry-referrals@nhs.net	01902 695842	Email pdf to ARC via nhs email account.	use nhs mail or fax to ARC
Urgent referral	rwh-tr.optometry-referrals@nhs.net	01902 695842	Email pdf to ARC via nhs email account.	use nhs mail or fax to ARC
Wet AMD	-	01902 695847	Always use fax	Wet AMD email not currently being used
Routine referral to HES for MECS	via GP	N/A	Via GP - email	Via GP - post/email/fax
Suspect Glaucoma Referral	To GERS accredited optom practice		See documents in Optomanager or LOC website wolvesloc.net	N/A
Referral to GP only (not to HES)	via GP	N/A	Via GP - email	Via GP - post/email/fax
Cataract referral	newreferrals.rwh@nhs.net	N/A	Automatic via optomanager / Email via nhs mail	can use nhs mail or post
IOPRR referral	newreferrals.rwh@nhs.net	N/A	Email via nhs mail account	can use nhs mail or post
Discharge	send GP info		To GP - email	To GP - post/email/fax

Postal address: Booking Office, Patient Access Team, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP

The patient should be given the information slip and advised to contact the optometrist in the event that an appointment is not offered by ARC or there is a breakdown in communication.

Can phone ARC for assistance. You should contact them by phoning New Cross Hospital switchboard on 01902 307999 and asking for ARC or the on-call ophthalmology doctor

2) Name of Hospital: Cannock Hospital, Nuffield Hospital

Cataract referral	Automatic via optomanager
--------------------------	---------------------------