**STAFFORDSHIRE & STOKE-ON-TRENT ICB CATARACT AND GLAUCOMA SERVICES**

Dear Practice,

**IMPORTANT LOCAL PATHWAY CHANGE**

**Please read and circulate the following to all employed and locum optometrists in your practice.**

The Integrated Cataract Service and Glaucoma Referral Filtering Service is now live in all localities within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICS – North Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Cannock Chase, Stafford & Surrounds, South-East Staffordshire & Seisdon Peninsula, and East Staffordshire.

These services are commissioned by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB and are provided by local optical practices via Primary Eyecare Services Ltd (PES), with the support of the Staffordshire Local Optical Committee.

They are for ALL patients registered with a GP practice in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

There has been a recent update on how non-participating/accredited optometrists can access the locally commissioned pathways

**It is now mandatory for ALL Cataract and Glaucoma referrals to be made through the commissioned pathways on OPERA.**

Any referrals sent to secondary care outside of these pathways will be deflected to a participating practice. This process has been put in place to maximise the impact of commissioning these pathways and to show the value of our primary care optometrists.

Referrals for patients from non-participating or out-of-area practices where you have determined a patient is suitable for the Cataract or Glaucoma services should be referred to an accredited practice. A referral should be done by:

1. **NHS Email to the Primary Eyecare Services referral hub**

Email a GOS18 referral to **cnech.pecservices@nhs.net** – This is the preferred method and any referrals done via this route should come from a nhs.net email account.

1. **Direct to an accredited practice** *(only if you do not have access to NHS email)*

A paper GOS18 referral should be posted directly to the patient’s chosen accredited practice.

* A list of accredited practices in the area should be provided to the patient following their eye examination so they can make a decision on which practice(s) would be most convenient for them to attend.
* It is best practice to contact the chosen practice as a courtesy to check they are happy to receive the referral and they can be assessed within the 4-week timeframe.
* The patient should be advised the chosen optical provider will contact the patient to arrange an appointment for their assessment.

**NOTE: PLEASE ENSURE ON YOUR REFERRAL YOU CLEARLY STATE WHAT SERVICE YOU ARE REFERRING THE PATIENT TO - PRE-OP CATARACT ASSESSMENT OR ECF.**

**PES Referral Hub Process:**

* Referrals received by the central PES team are processed within 2 working days and are checked to ensure they are appropriate for the Enhance Cataract/Glaucoma ECF service.
* Confirmation of receipt of the referral will be sent to HES.
* Patient is sent a letter giving a choice of practices. The patient can log in and choose a practice online or contact PES central team by telephone to make their choice.
* Once provider choice is received, the referral and patient details will be shared with the provider optical practice.
* Provider optical practice to contact the patient to make an appointment.
* Patient is seen under the service and the outcome is recorded within Opera.

If you are not currently providing cataract or glaucoma services but would like to, please contact us at hello@referral.support and the PES service support team will assist you in getting added to the list of providers.

Thank you for your ongoing support.