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To: Local Optical Committee, Hillingdon
cc: All Optometrists in Hillingdon

<http://www.hillingdonccg.nhs.uk>

10th June 2014

Dear Colleague,

RE: Hillingdon Community Ophthalmology Service

Following the update of NICE guidelines for glaucoma in 2009, the Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG) carried out a review of commissioned activity. As a result, in July 2011 it was decided to undertake a re-commissioning exercise for ophthalmology services, by introducing a Consultant led Community Ophthalmology service in order to:

- Improve the delivery of care to our patients locally
- Obtain better value for money
- To make referrals into this service simpler – especially for “urgent” cases
- Support GPs and Optometrists in making referrals
- To encourage patients in self management

Hillingdon CCG is happy to advise the Local Optical Committee and all Optometrists that following a Procurement process, Hillingdon Community Ophthalmology service went live on Tuesday 6th May 2014.

The service will be provided initially from Oakland Medical Centre, and work is currently underway to ensure the provision of a second community site, Eastbury Surgery in the near future:

- Oakland Medical Centre, 32 The Parkway, Hillingdon Middlesex UB10 9JX
- Eastbury Surgery, 3 Eastbury Road, Northwood Middlesex HA6 3BG

The service is a Multidisciplinary Consultant–led community service for patients registered with a GP in Hillingdon (I have attached a list of all Hillingdon GP Practices). It will manage both adults and children (for Strabismus and Amblyopia only).

The service will undertake clinical triage of all Ophthalmology referrals with appropriate management (assessment, investigation and treatment), and will treat the following Ophthalmological conditions in adults:

- Glaucoma: Screening, management and follow up of ocular hypertension and suspected glaucoma as per NICE guidelines. Follow up of stable primary open angle glaucoma per agreed protocols.
- Cataract: Triage for patients who may require cataract surgery, in line with the NW London PPwT pathway, and will undertake the approvals process on behalf of the patient/GP.
- Watery eye
- Dry eye

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- Red eye
- Lid lesion
- Blepharitis
- Floaters / flashing lights
- Field defects
- Retinal lesions
- Blurred vision
- Some emergency provision
- Eyelash problem

In addition, the service is responsible for supporting Practices with Primary care education and pathway management and patient education to enable self care and prevention.

Exclusions to the service have been agreed as the following:

- Routine tests, eye examinations or any spectacle prescription undertaken within General Ophthalmic Service (GOS)
- Diabetic retinopathy screening
- Wet/Dry AMD (or suspected)

The service is now available to Optometrists, and referrals can be made directly into Community Ophthalmology Service by fax or post, and a copy of the referral form is attached.

Referrals in to the service will adhere to the following performance indicators:

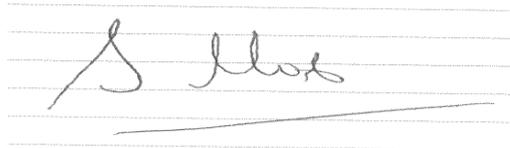
- Urgent referrals will be triaged within 4 hours, appointment same day or next day.
- Routine referrals will be triaged and patient issued with appointment within 2 working days.
- 95% routine patients to be seen within 4 weeks.
- Service to offer choice and make referral for secondary care if required.

As part of this process, please find attached the patient pathway guidance and referral criteria which has been produced by The Hillingdon Hospital to support you with making referrals to the service.

For all clinical queries please do not hesitate to contact Kamran Bhatt at the CCG on kamran.bhatti@nhs.net.

Thank you for your cooperation to date.

Yours sincerely



Dr Stephen Mort
Governing Body Member and Clinical Lead for Ophthalmology
Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group

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