



news

December 2010

Notes from the Chair

A new year is nearly upon us, and it promises to be an exciting one for optics in general, and for LOCs in particular. The NHS Commissioning Board will be established in shadow form this year, as will the new GP consortia. The latter are due to be fully established by April 2012, however a group, comprising most of the GP practices in the Bucks PCT area, has been chosen as one of the pathfinder consortia and, as such, will be one of the first in the country to be able to begin commissioning local services for patients directly with NHS colleagues. Your LOC is going to be very busy, engaging with these new bodies, and seeking better ways of agreeing and remunerating local enhanced services.

We will, as always, keep you informed of progress through the pages of this publication, with intervening email updates where appropriate.

Seasons greetings and a happy new year to all.

Bruce Gilson – Chair Bucks Local Optical Committee

News in Brief

Cataract patients at Milton Keynes Hospital are now normally discharged after one post-operative review, and advised to see their optometrist about six weeks after their operation. Such patients should receive a standard GOS sight test (assuming eligibility), using code 5.1 where required. A new version of MKH's **cataract booklet for patients** is available on the Bucks LOC website <http://www.loc-net.org.uk/bucksloc/11563228991986.html>

MKH has advised us that some **diabetic patients** are being referred to the hospital for retinopathy, despite being on the screening programme. Such patients should only be referred if you feel that more urgent review is required.

Education

Under the GOC's proposals for revalidation, due to take effect in January 2013, registrants will be expected to undertake CET in a range of modalities, which must involve some interaction with peers, and **peer review** will carry a greater number of points than some other forms of learning. Why not come along to one of your local groups in 2011? The **Chiltern Peer Review Group** meets twice-yearly at Amersham Hospital at 7.00pm. Contact Anne Frier for more information.

The **Milton Keynes Peer Review Group** will next meet at Milton Keynes Village Hall at 7.00pm on 28th March 2011. Contact Claire Ranger for details.

During Feb/March we hope to run an **AMD evening** at SMH and a **dispensing evening** with Carl Zeiss in MK. As usual, there will be several other CET events throughout the year, including ever-popular **workshops**. Dates will be confirmed nearer the times. To be among the first to hear of these, send your email address, to Angela McNamee bucksloc@hotmail.com.

If you have not received a personal copy of this newsletter, it may be because we do not have a correct email address for you.

**Please help us to help you. Let us have your e-mail address today.
Send it to bucksloc@hotmail.com**

Update on Urgent/Emergency Eye Services

Stoke Mandeville Hospital operates a seven day, appointment-only service, with clinic times 09.00 to 18.00 on weekdays and 10.00 to 16.00 at weekends and bank holidays. Call 01296 315939 to arrange an appointment.

Outside the above times an answerphone is available, and calls will be returned the next day; for more urgent advice, contact the on-call doctor via the hospital switchboard. The answerphone may sometimes be used also during busy clinics, and calls are responded to as soon as possible. A bleep system, available via the hospital switchboard, will be introduced very soon, for those cases considered too urgent to await a response. Referrals may also be faxed to 01296 315037. The hospital has asked us not to quote timescales for when non-emergency patients will be seen.

South Bucks referrals should be faxed to 01494 425467. Clinic are held on: Tuesday am (Amersham), Tuesday pm, Wednesday am & Friday pm (Wycombe).

Contact number: 01494 425509.

Milton Keynes Hospital Booked Urgent Service remains unchanged. Referrals should be faxed to 01908 243714, on the appropriate proforma (available on the Bucks LOC website). Clinic times are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 13.30 to 17.00, and Wednesday 09.30 to 12.30. Patients are contacted within three working days. Cases considered to require earlier assessment should be referred to SMH as above.

Please note that faxes to all of the above clinics will only be collected during stated clinic times.

NOTES FROM THE OPTOMETRIC ADVISOR

ICO – Is your business registered with the Information Commissioners Office? It probably should be. Have you notified the ICO of all equipment which processes patient data including cameras and visual field screeners.

Children – is your practice equipped to see young children? Do you have suitable test type, small trial frame, stereo tests, etc? Are the optoms competent with ret, comfortable doing a cyclo refraction and confident to prescribe. It's important to prescribe where necessary even if referring to an orthoptist or ophthalmologist. Testing young children can be challenging but it's not appropriate to refuse to see them. A practice which has a GOS contract should be able to see all eligible patients.

Date of last sight test – please make sure reception staff check this carefully and the optometrist should double check that the sight test is clinically necessary at the outset. Second opinions are not allowed under GOS. Complaints and problems should always be referred back to the prescribing practice.

Reasons for repairs – some of you may recently have had children's repair forms returned unpaid with a request to complete the 'reason' box. This was an unfortunate misunderstanding by TVPCA staff. A reason is not required on the form for children's repairs but the reason should be noted on the dispensing record and may be checked during a post payment verification visit.

[Buckinghamshire LOC](http://www.buckinghamshire-loc.org.uk/bucksloc)
www.loc-net.org.uk/bucksloc

CHAIR

Bruce Gilson
H 01628 664415
bruce.gilson@nhs.net

TREASURER

Jacqui Lucas
H 01494 862161

CLINICAL GOVERNANCE LEAD

Henry Leonard

MK LEAD

Claire Ranger
P 01908 695395

MID & SOUTH BUCKS LEAD

Bruce Gilson

PEER REVIEW CO-ORDINATOR

Anne Frier
01494 784141

HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE & MEETINGS

David Sculfor
01296 315034

Barbara Nall
Raj Shah

LOC SECRETARY

Angela McNamee
07788 424152
bucksloc@hotmail.com

PCT OPTOMETRIC ADVISOR for BUCKS

Jill Ellis
H 01525 712859
M 07795 800222
jill.ellis@buckinghamshire.nhs.uk