



28th January 2005

New Referral guidelines for South East Wales

Dear Colleague,

Many of you already refer directly to ophthalmology and have been doing so for some time.

The South East Wales Regional Optical committee has attained the agreement of the ophthalmologists in Gwent to have direct referral available to all optometrists.

We need to make sure now that all referrals we make are of a good quality. The optical committee would ideally like there to be one universal referral form, this is to save on having stockpiles of differing forms in the practice. It therefore seems sensible that all referrals should be made on the WECI/Pears referral form. The ophthalmologists have no objection to this as long as all the required information is present.

If you are writing in the form of a letter, they would like the letter to be addressed to "Dear Ophthalmologist" in Gwent and Bro Taff as they do not want the referrals to be to named ophthalmologists.

Although we are not now referring through the GP, it is important that the GP is informed of the referral so that they can forward any relevant medical details to the hospital and so they are kept informed about the treatment of their patients.

Patients will therefore want us to chase the occasional referral if there appears to be an unnecessary delay in getting a response and we should do this, rarely, by contacting the ophthalmic secretaries.

We have included the referral criteria across the region because some of you may be referring to both areas. The reason for having two sets of protocols is that we could not get the ophthalmologists to agree on the same protocols!

We have also included the AWDRSS referral protocols so we can work along side them. If you have any queries regarding any of the above information please contact me via the details below. I hope you find this information useful and use the laminated sheets in your everyday practice.

Kind regards,

Helen Tilley
Chairman

Chairman

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