

**Minutes of The Cambridgeshire Local Optometric Committee which took place at The George Hotel Huntingdon on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008.**

**Apologies:** Lesley Hodgson, Vivien Rosamond, Rupal Lovell-Patel and David Harrison.

**Present:** Karen French(KF), Wendy Newsom (WN), Sheila Urquhart(SU), Graham McAlister(GM), Chris Edwards(CE), Alison Lask(AL), Robert McLaughlin (RM), Daniel Hardiman-McCartney(DHM), Mitesh Rao (MR) was co-opted onto the committee.

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** These were previously circulated and were approved by the Committee.

**Matters Arising:** The increase in fees for LOC members is back dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. Need to check with LH that LOC members expenses are paid promptly.

**LOC-Support Unit (LOC-SU):** The LOC-SU suggested that all LOCs write to their Local Medical Committee(LMC) to check whether G.P.s want to receive routine letters about Glaucoma and Diabetic patients who attend for sight tests-as suggested in the new contract. AL spoke to Jeremy Wallman about this, who said this was an issue for common sense. WN has sent an e-mail to Dr. Aggarwal in order to contact the LMC.

**PCT and Clinical Governance Update:** The new contract for providers seems fine. MR was unsure as to whether he was on the performer's list and will check to see if he had received information on this.

The PCT are looking at other pathways where Optometry services may be utilised. R. Bourne is looking at the PEARS scheme and the Welsh Eyecare Initiative to see if something along these lines can be put in place in this area.

There is to be an area-wide meeting about the new treatment for AMD on the 11th September to which all optometrists in the county have been invited.

The direct referral letter seems to be working well, with referrals into Hinchingsbrooke. The initial audit has shown that 80% of patients have been directly referred into the eye clinic, 90% of these were using the new referral form, and 75% of the forms were typed. There has been a large increase in Glaucoma referrals. A further audit needs to be done to see if referrals are appropriate and to see if there is an improvement in the number of response letters to optometrists. It is hoped that there will be a favourable response to the direct referral letters in Addenbrookes.

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The Clinical Governance committee met on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. RLP is working on a document based on Standards for Better Health to send out to all those on the new Providers/Performers lists. This will be sent out in parts, so as not to overwhelm people. There will also be a bi-monthly newsletter produced by the Clinical Governance Directorate which will be sent out to all contractors and there will be a small area for Optometrists within this. The first newsletter is due out on the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

## **Shared Care Schemes:**

**Diabetes:** All practices are now on-line except for Specsavers in Peterborough, Eyes of Swavesey and Church and Compton. There is to be an update meeting for all those accredited practices on the 17<sup>th</sup> September in Peterborough. Peterborough Optometrists are having some difficulty with the new grading system.

There seems to be some doubt as to whether the increased 'pipe' size is operational or not for the Orion software system. Hopefully this will be clarified at the meeting.

**Glaucoma:** The Huntingdon CHANGES scheme has now moved to Phase 2 where some of the patients with OHT are being screened in the community. However these patients need to be seen using the HRT and at present there is only 1 practice in Huntingdon with one of these.

In Addenbrookes, RM spoke to some of the consultants about the concerns AL raised about seeing Glaucoma patients in practice who had been discharged from Addenbrookes.

These are long-term stable patients who have been discharged into the community due to the large volume of patients in the Glaucoma clinic. However they have been discharged and told to visit the optometrist for routine checks.

The LOC felt that there should be a protocol for seeing these patients which all optometrists working in the Cambridge area should be aware of. The protocol needs to have information about VF progression, and target pressure and there should be a fee involved. This matter will be investigated further by the LOC.

**Cataract:** The cataract forms for Addenbrookes are now similar to those for Hinchingsbrooke except the colours are different. The Pre-op pathway at Addenbrookes is now different in that patients will be seen by a Dr in the pre-assessment clinic. There is to be an accreditation meeting for all those accredited at Hinchingsbrooke and/or Addenbrookes. There will be an evening meeting at Addenbrookes on the 20<sup>th</sup> October, and an afternoon meeting in Hinchingsbrooke on the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

There are some other different cataract referral pathways in the county, one at Littleport and one at Wisbech.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer was absent from the meeting. The balance of the account is £21,000.

**Programme:** There was a brief discussion about the conference for 2009, and it was suggested that there should be a low vision topic with involvement from the RNIB.

The evening programme has the AMD meeting in September, then 2 cataract meetings in October. There is a possibility of having Keith Martin speak on Glaucoma in November.

**Any Other Business:** The chairman made the suggestion that the Committee should think about producing an LOC newsletter for distribution to all the Optometrists in the county. It was thought that a quarterly newsletter would be a good idea, and it would be easiest to produce this as an e-newsletter. This could be done through the website, RM and DHM will look at uploading this via the website. Initially the first one would have to be sent via the post with a request for everyone's current e-mail address. Once this information has been put on the website it would then be fairly straightforward to publish a newsletter.

The date of the next two meetings was then set. This will be for **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December.**