



26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Colleague,

**RE: Ophthalmology Accepting Referrals**

We hope you and your colleagues are keeping safe at this difficult time.

We wanted to update you on our plans for Ophthalmology care at Barnsley NHS Foundation Trust around our response to COVID 19 and the recovery, now that elective services across the country are starting to resume.

During this period we have been providing urgent and emergency care and undertaken urgent surgery. However, we have been working on contacting our existing patients to discuss their care needs and our next available appointment and treatment dates.

The response so far from the public has been positive and many are looking to continue their treatment with us. We have taken steps to keep the public and our staff safe in our dedicated eye clinic and hospital facilities.

Should your patients need to be referred, please assure them that if their appointment cannot be delivered virtually and they require a face to face appointment or treatment, we have implemented the following steps:

- We have a limited number of appointments per day to adhere to social distancing guidelines. During their visit we will ask them to keep 2 metres apart from other people, except from the clinical team who will be delivering their care.
- Every member of our team will always have appropriate PPE. Hand sanitiser is available and we suggest our patients wear masks when entering into the hospital site.

We continue to accept referrals and hope the steps we have taken to keep patients safe will give them the reassurance they need to seek treatment for their condition.

All new referrals will be clinically triaged, and patients will be contacted to discuss next steps. Please continue to refer patients.

The following referral pathways and contact details are below:

**OCULAR EMERGENCIES:**

Email: [bhnftophthalmology.handover@nhs.net](mailto:bhnftophthalmology.handover@nhs.net)

Routine: [bhnft.ophthopticianreferrals@nhs.net](mailto:bhnft.ophthopticianreferrals@nhs.net)

Cataracts: [bhnft.ophthopticianreferrals@nhs.net](mailto:bhnft.ophthopticianreferrals@nhs.net)

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us on the details below:

01226 431728



We are working closely with the LOC and Primary Eye Care and look forward to improving eye health outcomes for the people in Barnsley and surrounding areas. Our Ophthalmology Department and the Trust are here to work with you.

Kindest regards,

Miss A M Firan  
Ophthalmologist Consultant  
Barnsley Hospital