

BNSSG Enhanced Imaging Macula Referral Service

Background

In collaboration with Avon LOC, Bristol Eye Hospital and Primary Eyecare Services, the following service is scheduled to have a phased launch through July 2024:

- Enhanced Imaging Macula Referral Service.

The services – Aims and objectives

The **Enhanced Imaging Referral Service** allows direct referral of patients with **suspected macula pathology** for remote assessment by Bristol Eye Hospital.

- Referrals will be made through the Opera IT platform and include a full DICOM OCT and retinal photography of both eyes to allow the Bristol Eye Hospital retinal team to make a diagnosis and develop a management plan.
- Eligibility criteria are patients registered with a BNSSG GP requiring a referral for suspected macula pathology.

Outcomes: PLEASE DISCUSS WITH YOUR PATIENT

- The patient should not attend the next-day appointment (Monday – Friday) shown in the NHS app for this referral. This is not a real appointment, and it will be obvious which appointment this is referring to as it will be very late at night.
- The appointment will disappear within a few days.
- The patient should receive feedback on the images sent to the hospital within 2-3 weeks.
- The patient may receive a phone call from the hospital on a withheld number within 1 week of the referral being made if further information is needed.

Service Fees

- £30 per referral with required imaging

Help and support

- Practices and Practitioners can use the OPERA help menu as the first port of call for help and support, and or the OPERA support bubble to pose queries. Both these tools can be found on the OPERA home page.
- Wider Primary and Secondary Care providers that want to know more about the service can contact our service support team direct on: hello@referral.support.
- Urgent referrals back to providers should be made on Opera **AND as per local protocol, usually by telephoning the hospital provider.**