

## BNSSG Enhanced Imaging Macula Referral Service

### Background

In collaboration with Avon LOC, Bristol Eye Hospital and Primary Eyecare Services, the Enhanced Imaging Macula Referral Service launched in July 2024

### Service information

**The Enhanced Imaging Macula Referral Service** allows direct referral of patients with suspected macula pathology for remote assessment by the Medical Retina team 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 of 17 and over,
  - registered with a BNSSG GP;
  - requiring a referral to the **medical retina team** for suspected macula pathology.
  - Not appropriate for referrals for vitreo-retinal consultation for potential surgical intervention, such as full thickness macular holes and epiretinal membranes without other underlying pathologies.

### Outcomes: Please discuss with your patient

- Patients will be managed by Bristol Eye Hospital, with or without a face-to-face appointment.
- 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.