

## Community Optometry Newsletter – Spring 2024

Welcome to the first Community Optometry Newsletter on behalf of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (ICB). ICBs replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in the NHS from 1 July 2022 as part of the Health and Care Act 2022. The role of an ICB is to develop a plan to meet the health needs of the population and to arrange and manage the budget for the provision of NHS services such as ophthalmology. We do this by working in partnership with our Local LOC lead, Community Optometrists, ICB commissioning colleagues and UHL clinicians to develop and deliver integrated care for our population. We hope you find the newsletter a useful update on what is happening with the Ophthalmology programme.

### Electronic Eyecare Referral Service (EeRS)



A new electronic eyecare referral system (EeRS) called Cinapsis has been commissioned by NHSE Midlands and will be rolled out across the Midlands.



This will support electronic referral management and image sharing between community based optometrists and secondary care. Cinapsis provides optometry practices with a secure online platform (web and/ or mobile app) that enables optometrists to submit referrals directly to service providers in acute and community settings. This will improve patient outcomes, user experiences, and release benefits to the whole system including greater efficiency and the drive to future paperless NHS referrals.

LLR ICB is currently in the final stages of training and testing our pathways using Cinapsis and we plan to go live mid June 2024.

### Low Complex Cataracts - Clarity on wait times

There has been some confusion around the wait times for initial assessment for treatment and surgery at the different provider locations. Please see below an up to date position (as of May 2024) should your patient enquire about Provider wait times for treatment.

Any type of patient choice conversation should be independent and impartial and recorded on the patient record. However the commissioned pathway is this will be undertaken by the Cataract Booking Centre on receipt of referral.

Provider	Assessment	Surgery
CHEC	4 weeks	3-6 weeks
Coalville Hospital	3 months	No surgery
Hinckley Hospital	3 months	No surgery
Loughborough Hospital	4 months	2-3 weeks
LRI (non complex cataracts)	1-4 weeks	2-6 weeks
LRI (complex cataracts)	3-6 weeks	19 weeks
Market Harborough	6-8 weeks	No surgery
Melton Mowbray Hospital	5 months	No surgery
New Medica	3 days	1 week
Spamedica	3-4 weeks	3-4 weeks
PCL Stoneygate Hospital	3 weeks (by phone)	3-6 weeks F2F & Surgery
Ultralase/Optimax	4 weeks	3-6 weeks

## High Volume, Low Complex Cataract Pathway



Dear Colleagues

It has come to our attention that some of our Independent Sector Cataract Providers are advertising ophthalmic services that they are not contracted to do by the ICB.

Please note that the ICB currently only commissions high volume, low complexity cataracts and not any other type of ophthalmic service at the moment.

As part of the cataract pathway there is also a Pre and Post-operative cataract pathway that is commissioned across LLR and delivered by EMMS via their EyeV portal. The purpose of the service is to signpost patients with cataracts to the Cataract Booking Management Centre by completing the required referral form. Patients will be booked in for a pre-operative assessment at an eye care provider of their choice, and once discharged will attend a follow up appointment carried out by an accredited community based optometrist.

## Protocols for referrals into UHL Ophthalmology



Please use the correct referral pathways to ensure patients are seen by the correct person at the right time.

The following link sets out the protocols for referrals into UHL ophthalmology:

<https://www.loc-online.co.uk/leics-rutland-loc/referrals/llr-ophthalmology-referrals/>



Vista provides support to people affected by sight loss across LLR. Our Eye Clinic Liaison Officer ( Eclos ) provide support to anyone experiencing sight loss, including relatives and carers, including emotional support and practical information when it's needed most.

We offer support to help people understand their eye conditions at the early stages, as well as advice on living with sight loss, and maintaining your independence. We will explain the services that Vista provides and put you in touch with other organisations that could help you.

We have 2 Eclos who support adults, who are based at the Leicester Royal Infirmary and across the community hospitals and our Paediatric Eclo is based at the Leicester Royal Infirmary and Melton hospital, ensuring that children and families are supported at the point of diagnosis.

Our helpline number is 0116 2498839

## Independent Provider Accreditation

As part of the Government's Patient Choice agenda, the ICB is required to undertake a robust accreditation process for all Ophthalmology Providers seeking to enter the market or look to expand the services they offer.

The ICB is currently reviewing ophthalmology specifications in order to be able to facilitate this and offer patients up to a choice of 5 Providers on referral for a range of eye conditions. More information will be available soon on what that will mean for Optometrists.

If you would like any further information about the work of the ICB Ophthalmology Team please contact  
Donna.Brewer1@nhs.net