

Changes to the EeRS Pathway

Important Update: eVconnect GOS 18

- The GOS 18 element of the EVconnect platform from Evolutio that you are currently using to refer patients into hospital ophthalmology departments will be **ending on 30 June 2023**.
- There will be **no further extension** of this service after 30 June 2023.
- You can still use the platform to refer a patient following a community assessment (see below)

Important Update: eVconnect Paid pathways

- Please note that the local fee-paying commissioned optometry pathways which support the HES using the eVconnect platform will remain available to practitioners for:
 - Cataracts: (pre and post checks)
 - Glaucoma: (repeat readings)
 - Medical Retina: (diagnostics e.g. OCT)
- If a patient needs to be referred following a community appointment, this must be done using the eVconnect platform to ensure record closure and outcome reporting
- If you **do not** have access to the local fee-paying commissioned optometry pathways via eVconnect but would like support on gaining access then please email admin@evolutio-uk.com

Key Information

- You should continue to use the EeRS pathway for GOS 18 up to and including 30 June 2023.
- Evolutio will monitor the service for a limited period after 30 June 2023 to ensure that all referrals made up to the point of closure have safely reached their intended destination

Reason for Changes

- The GOS 18 EeRS pathway was established as a pilot service and funding for this was provided to the ICB on a non-recurrent basis
- The pilot was scheduled to end on 31st March 2023 and there was no further funding made available.
- The challenge to community optometry of transitioning to a new permanent pathway without a hard stop was recognised, and to avoid this, the decision was made to extend Evolutio GOS 18 until 30th June 2023
- In consultation with the LOC, ICB and acute Trusts the service has been extended until the 30 June 2023 to enable a transition to a new permanent pathway without a hard stop.

Next Steps

- New guidance was published by NHS England in December 2022 to take effect in September 2023. The planning guidance recommends direct referrals pathways from community optometrists to ophthalmology services for all urgent and elective eye consultations
- We are establishing a new Single Point of Access (SPoA) for Ophthalmology referrals into secondary care and plan to have this up and running by 1 July 2023
- This new SPoA will require inbound referrals to be delivered via an nhs.net account
- We are currently working on rolling out NHS.net to the optometric community across NCL over the coming months to restore direct electronic referrals.
- From 1st July there will be a direct referral email address, but referrals via GP are also an option if you're not yet on nhs.net.

What we would like from you

- Note that the GOS 18 element of the eVconnect service will close on 30 June 2023
- Following the GOS 18 cut off on eVconnect on 30th of June, you will need to refer via your GP as you did prior to this pilot
- Continue to use this service until further communication is released confirming how to make referrals via the new SPoA

- Support us in the rollout of NHS Mail. Please email David Graham at david.graham10@nhs.net if you **do not** have access to an active NHS Mail account so that we can support you in obtaining one

How you should refer from 1 July 2023

- Following the GOS 18 cut off on eVconnect on 30th of June, you will need to refer via a direct referral email address if you already have nhs.net or via your GP as you did prior to this pilot.
- We are currently working on rolling out NHS.net to the NCL optometric community over the coming months to restore direct electronic referrals.

Feedback

If you have any questions relating to this communication, then please email them to the Chair at North Central London LOC using chairman.bechloc@gmail.com