
Easter Newsletter**Dates for your diary**

Wednesday 22nd April: **How good are our referrals?**
6.45pm at Holiday Inn, London Road, Ipswich IP2 OUA

An interactive educational event to feedback on a recent audit of optometrist referrals and discuss referral issues. A presentation will be followed by peer discussion and 3 CET points have been approved for optometrists in the following competencies: Communication, Professional Conduct and Ocular Disease.

If you referred patients during the summer of 2014, you will likely have had a number of these referrals audited, graded and reports completed regarding many aspects of referral quality. This confidential information will be available for collection during the evening in sealed envelopes. Please bring along proof of identification to receive your reports. If you are not able to attend this meeting referral reports and outcome data will be posted to the address from which the referral was made. If you would like the information sent to an alternative address or give permission for a colleague to collect at the meeting please advise Derek Dunstone (derek@dunstoneinsight.com) by April 20th 2015.

Wednesday 20th May: **Developments in corneal and cataract surgery.**

7.00pm at Ravenwood Hall Hotel, Rougham, Bury St Edmunds IP309JA

Following a presentation explaining the work of the Blind Veterans West Suffolk consultant Ophthalmologist, Usman Hussain will update us on the current and future of corneal and cataract surgery. 1 CET point has been applied for.

Thursday 11th June: **The sixth annual National Eye Health Week (NEHW) will take place 21 –**

27 September 2015. Once again, eye care charities, organisations and

Health professionals from across the UK are joining together to promote

the importance of eye health and the need for regular sight tests for all.

David Cartwright, Chair of NEHW, will discuss how we can all get involved. Store and regional managers as well as non professional colleagues are very welcome to attend.

Afterwards, **'How to avoid the FTP Panel'**

1 interactive CET point will be applied for Optom/CLO/DO

6.30pm at Holiday Inn, London Road, Ipswich IP2 OUA

For all the above events please contact Liz Mears to book a place to facilitate getting the catering right.
liz.mears79@ntlworld.com

ESP Training and Accreditation

The latest WOPEC accredited training and assessment was held on the 22nd March with 9 Optometrists being approved to provide general referral refinement. If anyone else is interested in learning more about Enhanced Services please contact Alex Gaines at admin@suffolkloc.org.uk.

Cataract waiting times

Both of our main hospitals are currently working hard to achieve the 18 weeks from referral to surgery. We suggest the patient is told it may be up to 10 weeks before they hear from the hospital to be offered an initial appointment.

Private referrals

Some of you may regularly advise your patients about private secondary care services available in Suffolk for others it is a rarity. So to help you give your patient's choice we have listed below some typical costs for common appointment types.

Initial consultation: £ 150-170

Follow up appointment: £ 90-120

Cataract Surgery: £ 2150-2500 (single vision spherical)

YAG laser: £500

Ptosis repair: £1700

Also for those of you in the West Mr Hanspal, who specialises in glaucoma, has joined Mr Vivian in seeing private patients at the BMI Bury St Edmunds.

Newmedica Community Glaucoma Service

If you need to share pertinent clinical information; fax 01473 453463

For enquires that are less sensitive email Suffolk@newmedica.co.uk

Benign Exterior Eye lesions (“lumps & bumps”)

Just a reminder that the CCG stipulate that patients who require HES attention must be referred to their GP who will submit a T28 form with the referral unless malignancy suspected

GOS 1 and children’s eye examinations

For those of you who missed the Optometry Today issue from March 21, AOP clinical adviser to the legal team Trevor Warburton clarified some contractual GOS issues. Part of which is repeated below

“Practitioners should remember that they must not simply decline to see a young child or baby on the basis that they are ‘too young’ or the practice ‘doesn’t deal with young kids’

The optometrist must ensure that they are aware of practices that welcome such patients and should direct such children to those practices and keep a record when they do so.”

We would encourage all clinicians to read more on <http://www.optometry.co.uk/news-and-features/?article=7107> and to communicate this to their colleagues and management where relevant.

Emergency referrals

To ensure no confusion all emergency referrals should go directly to the hospital after speaking to the eye clinic.

Ipswich Hospital telephone for urgent referrals: 01473 712 233 (Bleep on call Ophthalmologist 470).
Ipswich Hospital Fax for urgent referrals (not in use at weekend or after 5pm): 01473 703 838
For emergency referrals outside the times above, you can refer to Ipswich A&E, Tel: 01473 702 033.

West Suffolk Hospital: Telephone for urgent referrals: 01284 713000 (Ask for the on call Ophthalmologist).
When the appointment has been arranged, fax the referral to 01284 713 816 or use:
NHSmial to wsh-tr.Direct@nhs.net.

Wet AMD referrals

Please use the “Wet AMD rapid access referral form” or, if not available, the “Suffolk optometric direct referral scheme” or the “fax referral form” available from www.suffolkloc.org.uk/index.php?page=Referrals clearly indicating that it is an urgent macular referral.

Ipswich Hospital Urgent Fax: 01473 702 627
West Suffolk Hospital Wet AMD Urgent Fax: 01284 712 721
West Suffolk Hospital Wet AMD rapid access service address: wsh-tr.RapidAMD@nhs.net (only send from an NHS net mail account to ensure patient confidentiality and call 01284 712 721 to advise the referral has been sent).

Further information and resources can be found on our website www.suffolkloc.org.uk,

Don’t forget to follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter**

Happy Easter,