

Referral Refinement in Suffolk FAQs

What does OpSi stand for?

OpSi stands for Optometrist with Special interests.

This was changed to ESP– Enhanced Service Provider, then to ESO – Enhanced Service Optometrist.

Who can be an OpSi?

Any optometrist who is confident with a perkins or goldman should be able to provide IOP refinement.

The LOC recommend you complete LOCSU Glaucoma training module level 1 (a&b) available online.

<http://www.locsu.co.uk/training-and-development/enhanced-services-training>

If you need locsu codes please let us know admin@suffolkloc.org.uk.

Other qualifications are required for the Red eye and “other” referral refinement services (e.g. PEARS previously arranged locally by the LOC through WOPEC).

How can I become an OpSi?

Register with evolutio to provide the service using the link below:

<http://www.evolutio-uk.com/#!/esp/cyzd>

How many patients?

An ESP can accept or refuse any cases sent to them and so can regulate how many they undertake.

Payment?

ESO fees are currently:

Glaucoma IOP refinement 1st visit £32.86; 2nd visit £20.77 (max 2 visits);

General referral refinement:

Anterior Eye 1st visit £38.16; 2nd visit £24.12 (max 2 visits).

Posterior Mydriasis 1st visit £47.70; 2nd visit £30.15.

Children’s referral refinement £48.00 1st visit; £25 6/52 review; £48 final appointment (max 3 visits)

What cover does my insurance give?

ESPs are using the competencies that all Optometrists have so there is no need for any extra insurance.

What CET do I need to do?

The CET requirements are as per an optometrist but it would be wise to skew it towards the services offered.

Holiday cover

If an optometrist knows they are to be away for more than a few days, Evolutio need to be made aware.

What ESP services are provided?

The services are: glaucoma refinement (raised IOPs), general referral refinement.

Children’s eyecare refinement is running as a trial in East Suffolk only.

Can I provide one and not the other?

Yes

Can I self refer (an internal referral)?

Yes. But unless it is an emergency, you will need to wait until your referral has been triaged before seeing the patient for the ESP appointment (usually within 48 hours). The referral may be directed elsewhere if the triager feels an internal referral is inappropriate.

Are there protocols to follow?

Yes protocols are to be followed and these form part of the ESPs' service contract

Will there be a lot more paperwork?

There is little paperwork as most of the work is done on the erefer software and leaving just the billing to be done separately. Reports for the GP can be printed from the software to be sent on by post.

How do I submit my findings?

The results of an examination are submitted via the erefer software.

Who do I have to notify?

You need to keep the original referrer and patient's GP notified of your findings.

How can I ensure my referral goes to the hospital?

The patient can elect to attend the HES rather than an ESP. This patient decision and their choice of hospital is recorded on the erefer software.

How do I refer internally?

Select this option in the erefer software. Only emergencies can be booked in on the same day as the original referral (e.g. acute red eye; sudden onset of floaters or flashes). All routine referrals must be triaged before a self referral can be legitimately claimed.

Is internet access necessary to be part of the scheme?

Yes it is essential to work as an ESP that you have internet access.

Are quality checks made?

Yes, from statistical analysis and overview of referral behaviour seen by triagers. Practice visits may be conducted and practices will need to complete Quality in Optometry level 2.

Do I need special equipment?

Glaucoma refinement: Requires Goldman or Perkins tomometer; slit lamp, visual field analyser.

General referral refinement: Standard optometric equipment (but the more the better).

Childrens referral refinement: Crowded LogMAR acuity chart ; Age appropriate trial frame; Stereopsis chart; Appropriate ophthalmic drugs –Cycloplegic; IOO Intuitive overlays testing pack; Wilkins rate of reading test.

How do I fit these appointments in my normal clinic?

You can work your diary out to suit yourself. Most ESPs involved in general referral refinement keep an appointment free per day in case an urgent appointment is required.