



Isle of Wight

**Department of Ophthalmology
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AGI/SS/Referral procedure

27th May, 2010

To all Opticians & General Practitioners, Isle of Wight.

Dear Colleague,

The Eye Department has been receiving referrals by both hard copy letter and also fax from both general practitioners and optometrists for some time now. As a result the department can receive three or even four separate referral communications regarding the same patient and these referrals may be received over a period of a number of weeks.

Unfortunately this has resulted in the one referral being allocated appointments in more than one clinic.

In order to avoid this waste of resources in the future, we would appreciate if all referrals could be made by hard copy letter, and faxed referrals reserved only for urgent or emergency cases. Only hard copy letter referrals will enter the grading system for allocating clinic appointments and faxed emergency referrals will be booked directly to the Emergency Clinic or, if necessary, seen by the on call doctor that day.

Of course it is still possible to refer emergency patients directly by phone through the switchboard and bleep system to the doctor on call.

We may also request that all optometrists who have referred patients directly to the Eye Department please also notify their general practitioner so that their medical information can be forwarded in time for the appointment. In order to avoid confusion please also make clear to the general practitioner that a referral to the Eye Department has already taken place directly.

We much appreciate your co-operation with our efforts to improve efficiency and reduce the number of wasted appointments.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Alastair Gittos
Lead Clinician in Ophthalmology**

Please see over for examples of conditions appropriate to refer via emergency fax.

Examples of conditions appropriate for emergency fax referral include:

- Suspected retinal detachment
- Iritis
- Corneal ulcer
- Acute angle closure glaucoma
- Acute post operative infection
- Orbital cellulitis
- Suspected penetrating eye injury
- Blunt ocular trauma
- Sudden loss of vision

Emergency fax number for the above is: 01983 534415