



*C/o 5 Lily Walk, Durrington, Salisbury Wiltshire SP4 8ND*

All Contractors  
Portsmouth, SE Hants and Fareham & Gosport CCGs

04 September 2019

Dear Colleague

We are aware that St Mary's Treatment Centre are sending patients to Community Practices for cataract post-operative sight tests and requesting either directly from the optometrist or via the patient, details of the sight test or VA's on the basis that practices can claim the NHS GOS sight test fee for this service. **This information is wrong!** There is no formal regulated process in place for the GOS performer or the relevant contractor to feedback refractive details to the treatment centre and or for the provision of GOS to be used in this way.

Hampshire LOC has taken advice and can confirm that any community post cataract follow up must be conducted under a separate additional services contract and that NHS GOS can only be used once all post-operative management has taken place. For example, the first sight test following a cataract procedure should not be seen as part of the sign off process, be used for monitoring outcomes and/or planning any further procedures.

We are attempting to engage in discussions with the CCGs and Care UK together to resolve this issue and put an appropriate additional services contract in place that is fit for purpose and protects both the patient and the optometrist. In the meantime, unless the patient has been full discharged from Care UK (St Mary's) and are attending to have a new prescription post-surgery we would advise that you do not complete any documentation or provide VAs that will be sent back to the ophthalmologist as it may be deemed that you are part of the post cataract care pathway.

There is no formal regulated process in place for the GOS performer or the relevant contractor to feedback refractive details to the treatment centre and or for the provision of GOS to be used in this way.

Any patient presenting with a letter/form requesting details on behalf of St Mary's must be referred back to St Mary's whose care they are under until fully discharged. Only when a patient is confirmed as fully discharged from the care of St Mary's following a procedure would it be recommended to undertake the provision of sight testing.

NHSE are aware of this local situation and will be monitoring NHS GOS claims for any undue activity which may result in a PPV visit and records checked up to seven years in arrears and any consequential recoveries made. This is the reason for this advice being issued by the LOC.

As soon as we have any further information we will let you know and will also include an update on our website [www.hampshireloc.org.uk](http://www.hampshireloc.org.uk)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Matthews". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Sean Matthews  
Chair – Hampshire LOC