

## **Primary Eyecare Services (PES) Report for LOC AGM 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

This report is very different than it would have been a few months ago due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Post Cataract Services.**

Due to COVID-19 all elective care including cataract extractions ceased w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> March. It has recently recommenced with hospitals discharging an increasing number of patients for post-op follow ups in primary eyecare. Please ensure that you have approved practitioners to provide this service. Practitioners need to have completed the WOPEC cataract module.

### **Lymington Hospital- (routine Southampton cataract patients)**

1. This went live at end of 2019
2. Hospital has portal access to OptoManager platform, so patients are discharged through this to optical practices. The patient is given a choice of optical practice by the hospital at time of discharge.
3. Unfortunately, there were a very low number of post-op follow-ups due to the cessation of cataract extractions. However, this is now increasing.

### **Southampton Hospital**

1. Originally there was no interest from the main hospital to discharge their patients for a post op check.
2. Due to their large backlog & reduced capacity, as a result of COVID, Southampton is now keen for their post op cataract patients to be seen in primary eyecare practices.
3. The hospital has portal access to OptoManager platform, so patients are discharged through this to optical practices. The patient is given a choice of optical practice by the hospital at time of discharge
4. The practice is required to contact the patient within 48hrs to book an appointment. PES can track who has and has not contacted their patients – thus there will be failsafe and tracking capability.

### **Bournemouth Eye Unit**

1. Currently patients are discharged using paper-based system so we're unable to track them. PES were organising hospital portal access to the OptoManager platform so that patients can be discharged through the platform straight to the practice with clinical information. This is on hold due to COVID-19.
2. Lack of clarity on pathway for CMO. Discussion of referral guidelines & pathways for CMO with BEU have been delayed. The plan is to send these out to all of the practices & practitioners once they have been agreed.
3. We had hoped to relaunch of the service with practices, so they are clear on the requirements, but this has been delayed due to COVID.

Extra cataract lists were run in February to reduce waiting lists. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 a lot of those patients are unable to attend their follow-up appointments with their optometrist. These patients were triaged by optometrists & the hospital contacted a lot of them as well. The hospital still require optometrists to carry out the post-op cataract checks despite the delay as they require outcomes eg VAs & refraction for their audit.

### **Private providers-**

- **Optegra ( Bristol, Guildford, East Hampshire)**

Service launched Sept 2019

- **Sapphire Eye Health**

Service was ready for launch in March but then COVID-19 hit & cataract surgery stopped.

## **W Hants & S'hampton City CCGs -**

### **COVID Urgent eyecare Service- CUES**

An email was sent out to all practices in east Dorset, West Hampshire & Southampton City who expressed an interest in providing CUES on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. There will be a soft launch on 9<sup>th</sup> July & MECS will cease on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The launch event in on 9<sup>th</sup> July at 20.00.

The CUES service will enable Independent Prescribing optometrist to issue FP10s so that a wider range of conditions can be managed independently of the hospital services & GPs. CUES also uses an IT platform that will allow direct referral to the hospital eye service if required through eRS. The hospitals will have direct access to OCT scans, images & other diagnostic results by clicking on the link within the referral.

Wherever possible consultations are carried out virtually, preferable by video consultation. Where a face to face consultation is required this can only take place in primary care if the patient is free of COVID-19 symptoms.

We had a very good response throughout Dorset, Hampshire & the Isle of Wight to the expression of interest to provide CUES that went out in April.

**Southampton City** have commissioned CUES until end March 2021.

The **West Hampshire** contract is all encompassing & runs until March 2022. It includes the following;

- CUES
- Post cataract follow ups
- Glaucoma referral filtering
- OHT & glaucoma monitoring

### **Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester**

A new service was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> July to support the glaucoma consultant. The hospital will be sending some of their glaucoma patients who have had SLT or a change in treatment to primary care practices for GAT IOP measurement 6 weeks later. The hospital retains clinical responsibility for these patients & is responsible for managing the service. This service is only open to practices that currently provide the glaucoma repeat readings service & have a nhs.net email address.

### **North Hampshire**

Have in the past commissioned PEARS with individual contractors. They are in the process of transferring this to CUES commissioned with PES.

They plan to use the West Hampshire contract to avoid any border issues.

### **Isle of Wight**

Have expressed an interest in commissioning CUES- this is taking longer than in the above CCGs as they have never commissioned any primary eyecare services before.

### **Services under discussion-**

Hospitals in general are looking how they can manage services during the recovery period. Discussions are underway about managing the delayed follow-ups in ophthalmology, particularly with regard to glaucoma West Hampshire CCG was in the process of implementing a stable glaucoma monitoring service before the COVID crisis & this is now accelerating. It is apparent that these services will be even more important in supporting the acute trusts to manage the surge in demand.