

To All GOS contractors in Belfast LCG taking part in the BHSCT Eye Casualty CCG pilot.

Please share this important guidance with all optometrists and OMPs in your practice: full time, part time and locums.

BHSCT EYE CASUALTY CCG REFERRAL PILOT

This guidance is for referral of patients to BHSCT Eye Casualty (RVH) from 1st January to 31st March 2022 and only for practices taking part in the pilot.

From 1st January 2021 a new pilot Eye Casualty referral pathway is commencing for urgent cases using CCG e referral.

Important: CCG Referral Must Only Be Used During BHSCT Eye Casualty Opening Hours:

8am – 6pm Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm Weekends & Bank Holidays

Outside these opening hours ALL Eye Casualty referrals should be made by the usual telephoning the RVH switchboard 02890 250503 & asking for the ophthalmologist on call.

Please review the Pilot Ophthalmology Referral Guidance Poster (see link below) carefully for information on which conditions/symptoms to refer using CCG.

- **For Ocular Emergencies DO NOT** refer on CCG, instead **contact Eye Casualty directly by telephone as before** tel: 028 96150093 or, if out of hours, the ophthalmologist on call, via RVH switchboard tel: 028 9024050.

See updated (*click link*) [Pilot Ophthalmology Referral Guidance Poster](#) for list of **Ocular emergencies** (left hand red section) that **should not** be referred via CCG.

- **For Urgent Ocular conditions:** refer using **CCG** (you do not need to telephone first unless triage advice is needed)

Refer a patient to BHSCT Eye Casualty using CCG if they present with any of the conditions listed under the Urgent Category in the updated Ophthalmology Referral Guidance poster. (central, yellow, section)

On CCG choose the BHSCT RVH CCG option: “**Eye Casualty Optom Use Only Pilot**” template

Note: the Referral Guidance Poster will also be visible on the Eye Casualty CCG advice banner.

OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

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On the referral template please include in the Additional Free Text Information box on the Clinical page:

- BERT score if applicable
- Indicate if patient was dilated, which drug used, in which eye and time of instillation. Indicate presence / absence of RAPD prior to dilation
- Click on the drop down box to indicate if the patient was seen under NIPEARS.
- Remember always to include the patient's visual acuities.

For all other non-urgent conditions please use the relevant referral guidance and CCG pathways *click on link* [Optometry Referral Guidance](#)

Reminder: direct referrals to the orthoptic service in both BHSCT and SEHST are currently not available on CCG and should still be submitted as paper referrals.

Outcome of CCG referral of Urgent cases: action by Eye Casualty.

On receipt of the CCG referral an Eye Casualty clinician will triage the referral and Eye Casualty staff will either

1. Contact the patient directly to arrange an eye casualty appointment.

The patient should be sent home from the practice and advised that they will be contacted by Eye Casualty. It is essential that the patient's correct telephone number is included on the CCG referral to enable Eye Casualty to contact the patient.

or

2. Contact the practice to advise that the patient does not need to be seen at Eye Casualty and to give guidance on further management. In this case Eye Casualty will not contact the patient; this will be the responsibility of the practice.

During triage the Eye Casualty clinician may contact the optometrist/OMP for further information to assist in their decision making. It is essential that a direct practice phone number is provided on the referral template.

Note: the pilot is only for referral of patients to BHSCT (RVH) Eye Casualty, in the unlikely event that you have a patient that you need to refer to WHSCT (Altnagelvin – AAH) Eye Casualty you must telephone Altnagelvin as usual, following the original *(click link)* [Ophthalmology Urgent Referral Guidance](#) and using the paper referral form *(click link)* [Optometry Eye Casualty Referral form](#).

Eye Casualty Attendance Outcome You are reminded that the outcome of the Eye Casualty attendance should now be visible on NIECR for the patient under the "Combined Encounter History" tab.

If you have any queries please contact an HSCB Optometric Adviser.