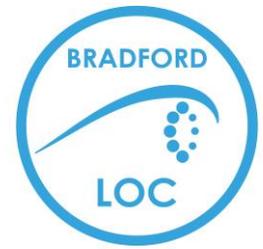


Bradford Local Optical Committee

2pm 23rd March 2020 Coronavirus Update – Information for Practices.



Dear Colleague

In these unusual times, our working arrangements will need to be altered. Arrangements are changing frequently and so the information below is current at the time of writing but may be superseded when circumstances change.

Sight tests, contact lens appointments and enhanced services

We echo national guidance issued by the College of Optometrists today: that every optometrist and practice owner stops providing routine sight tests and routine eye examinations, and offers only essential services. Essential services would include sight tests based on a clinical need after a telephone triage, and urgent eye care pathways. For more information please visit:

<https://www.college-optometrists.org/the-college/media-hub/news-listing/coronavirus-2019-advice-for-optometrists.html>

Referrals – BRI and AGH

All elective surgery (eg. Cataract) has been cancelled. There are now very few face to face consultations, and the intention is for all routine review appointments to be postponed till the CV crisis ends.

What does this mean for your referrals? (see attached “Bradford Referral Guidelines” for how to categorise the urgency)

1. **Same day** – These would still need to be referred via phone to the Urgent Referral Clinic – **No change**
2. **Soon** – Normally within 3-4 weeks - These would still need to be referred via phone to the Urgent Referral Clinic – if in doubt, phone for advice - **No change**
3. Routine – **Refer after the CV crisis has ended**. Write the referral now, give/post a copy to the patient but **do not send to the GP yet**; keep a list of list of referrals you need to send when normal service has been resumed (HES will advise when)
4. Macula Fastrack – All these patients will be in a high risk category by virtue of their age hence the service has been reduced to a minimum; all macular referrals are being triaged to grade urgency, hence all following info is **essential**:
 - 1) How long have the symptoms been noticed.
 - 2) What specifically is the VA reduction.
 - 3) Is there haemorrhage, if so where & how large
 - 4) Are there signs of AMD (eg, drusen – large/small? Pig changes?)
 - 5) Do you have any previous photos/OCT to compare
 - 6) What is happening in the other eye?

If you have an OCT, please use it and email the scan to macular.admin@nhs.net

This applies even if you do not have an NHS.net email address; due to the exceptional circumstances the potential to reduce patient harm by emailing an OCT currently outweighs the risk of using non-encrypted email.

Yours faithfully,

Bradford LOC