



# Devon LOC



DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE

## Chair's Introduction

### Happy New Year!

For many, the New Year marks a new beginning and, of course, new resolutions.

Some of the most popular New Year's resolutions, which were made at the stroke of midnight, will come as no surprise: lose weight, exercise more, stop smoking and get organised.

We would like to see the general population have a resolution of regularly checking their eyesight. Optometry Today recently published an article stating 'Half of the over 40s are failing to have sight tests'. People over the age of 40 are risking their sight by failing to have regular eye examinations, according to a survey conducted by the UK's largest health cash plan provider, Simplyhealth. Two out of five respondents admitted to noticing deterioration in their vision, but had done nothing about it. A third said they squinted when they struggled to make out a menu or a sign, while one in five asked someone else to read it and one in eight borrowed someone else's glasses.

Click [here](#) for more information.

To mark the New Year, The Optician has asked some key decision-makers what they expect for the year ahead. Regulatory changes, advances in technology and a precarious financial forecast top the bill. Click [here](#) to view the comments.

I'm sure that some of you have made a resolution to collect your minimum of 6 CET points early this year. The AOP hosted a popular series of regional peer discussion groups across the UK last year and these have been extended into 2014 to visit locations not previously offered. These are approved for three interactive Peer Review CET points. Click [here](#) for more details.

Remember, we are the gatekeepers of eye care and the LOC are working hard on your behalf.



Charles Bill

Chairman, Devon LOC

### LOC Committee

Chair: Charles Bill

Vice Chair: Peter Noakes

Secretary: Fiona Hiscox

Treasurer: Daniel Tabb

**Committee Members:**

Paul Bradford, Mark Bushby, Louise Frost, Max Halford, Eiohn Hayes, Ian Holten, Richard Hoyland, Nicki Pullen and Jacqueline Sandford

NHS England Newsletter for General Ophthalmic Service Contractors December 2013

Click [here](#) to view this

### Eye Health Local Professional Network (LPN) for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Congratulations to Paul Bradford who has been appointed as the Chair of the Devon, Cornwall and the Isles and Scilly Eye Health Local Professional Network. The Devon LOC look forward to working with Paul to further improve the Eye Health across the region.

As part of the NHS reforms, Local Professional Networks (LPNs) for eye health are established with the aims of Improving outcomes, Delivering high quality care, Reducing inappropriate variation and Reducing health inequalities.

Eye Health LPN specific functions are:

- NHS sight tests and domiciliary services are demand-led and work to improve access for sight tests for hard to reach groups
- Support Health and Wellbeing Boards to carry out effective Eye Health Needs Assessments as part of the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Focus on improving and redesigning services in line with national eye health Pathways
- Key role in developing eye health in primary, secondary and social care

Click [here](#) for more information

# Best Practice for Referrals

## Patient and GP Details

Ensure all patient details including the current GP name and address are correct and up to date before referral. It is important to ask the patient if their details are correct at the point of referral. This will ensure that there is no delay in referral for the patient.

## Non-Ocular referrals

Any referrals for non-ocular conditions such as skin lesions on the cheek must be first referred to the patients GP.

## Referral conditions

When referring patients for Ophthalmic Conditions please choose one condition for referral and put other relevant information in the free text. Consider which is the most important condition and which clinic is the best clinic to treat that condition. For example, if a patient presents with cataract and blepharitis, choose cataract as the reason for referral and place blepharitis in the free text.

## Lesions around the eye

When referring lesions around the eye please

state: How long the lesion has been present and the size of the lesion.

## Blepharoplasty

Blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery) and brow lift is regarded as a low priority procedure and is therefore not routinely funded by the NHS.

Blepharoplasty with and without brow lift will be funded when the following criteria are met:

- Impairment of visual fields in the relaxed, non-compensated state: Evidence will be required that eyelids impinge on visual fields, reducing field to 120 degrees laterally and 40 degrees vertically (20 above and 20 below).
- Correction of ectropion (eyelid turns outwards) or entropion (eyelid turns inwards towards the eye) with ocular irritation and causing functional implications.

All referrals for low priority procedures are to be made via the GP .

Click [here](#) to view Ophthalmic procedures not currently funded by the NHS

## Recent CCG Advice to GPs on Eyecare

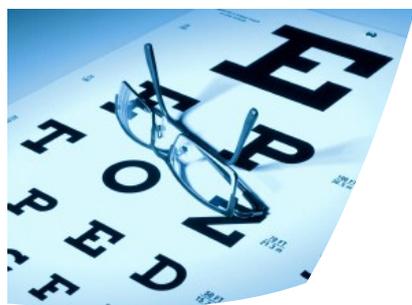
The CCGs in Devon have recently produced guidance for GPs across Devon regarding two aspects of Eyecare:

- 1) Local GPs have been advised Hypromellose 0.3% remains the most cost-effective firstline choice of treatment for tear deficiency and may be administered up to every hour if required. The South West formulary states - single use and unpreserved eye drops should be reserved for patients with chronic known allergy to preservatives and/or for diagnostic purposes only.
- 2) Nutritional Supplements for age-related macular degeneration: Assessing the evidence for slowing the progression of established age-related macular degeneration (ARMD) shows that AREDS continues to be the only major trial on which to base decision making.

The information provided in the clinical commissioning guidance from the College of Optometrists and the Royal College of Ophthalmologists on age-related macular degeneration states that 'patients with early ARMD and at risk of developing late ARMD could be recommended to take the AREDS2 supplement but they are not approved by NICE or the Scottish Medicines Consortium'.

The following advice has been offered to GPs:

- A) Primary care prescribing of nutritional supplements (i.e. iCaps®, PreserVision®, Viteyes®) for ARMD is not recommended.
- B) If patients wish to purchase preparations they should note that not all products available contain the same amount of ingredients as used in AREDS.



## GP Eye Health Network

Eye health, with a focus on ageing and sight loss, is a UK-wide RCGP clinical priority for April 2013 to March 2016.

A network on eye health has been set up to help the clinical champion to further develop and deliver the programme, as well as supporting the dissemination of key messages.

Clinical leadership for this programme is provided by Dr Waqaar Shah, RCGP clinical champion for eye health.



For further details click [here](#)



All Optician Practices across Devon can now have access to NHS Mail for referring patients to secondary care.

Access to an nhs.net mail account can now be facilitated by the Cornwall IT Team, please either call 01209 881717, or email CITS.Servicedesk@cornwall.nhs.uk

You need to mention in your communication that you are part of the Devon PODs set up, so that you are not mistakenly redirected to one of the Devon Trusts.

Devon LOC have produced a helpful guide to NHS Mail (click [here](#) to view this)



The Plymouth Diabetic Retinal Screening Service have

recently produced a poster which can be displayed in Optician Practices. The poster shows the importance of regular diabetic eye screening. The poster can be found on the LOC Website—click [here](#) to view this.

S.W.E.E.T. is set up to bring you events and training in our area. By Opticians for Opticians.

**The first event will be Sunday 16th March 2014 at the Exeter Racecourse.**

For more details click [here](#)

## LOC Details

Jonathan Drew (Business Manager)  
Devon Local Optical Committee

Deer Park Business Centre  
Haldon Hill  
Kennford  
Exeter  
EX6 7XX

[www.devonloc.co.uk](http://www.devonloc.co.uk)



01392 834026 (10am—3pm)



[jdrew@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:jdrew@devonloc.co.uk)



Follow [DevonLOC](#) on twitter



Like [Devon LOC](#) on Facebook



WOPEC is self taught training on the following areas: Cataract, Glaucoma, PEARS, Low Vision, Learning Disabilities. To get your unique code for course access and instructions please email Jonathan Drew stating which codes you would like.