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AREA TEAM



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SUPERVISORS

Issue 4 o June 2013

Devon LOC

DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE

Over 80% of sight loss occurs in people over 60 years of age. Around 50% of older people have undetected sight loss, which has a negative effect on physical and psychological wellbeing.

Dr Ivo Kocur, an expert on public eye health at the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations public health arm, has announced a new global Strategy called 'Universal eye health: a global action plan 2014-2019'. It is a global target to reduce the prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25% by 2019. This vision is to have a 'world in which no one is needlessly visually impaired, where those with unavoidable vision loss can achieve their full potential, and there is universal access to comprehensive eye care services'. Click [here](#) for further information

At the same time the Royal College of General Practitioners has prioritised eye health amongst elderly patients. Eye Health has been announced by the RCGP as one of its four clinical priorities for 2013-2016. A three year programme of work by the RCGP was launched in April 2013 led by Dr Waqaar Shah.

The refreshed UK Vision Strategy 2013-2018 was launched at the beginning of this month

LOC Committee

Chair: Charles Bill

Vice Chair: Peter Noakes

Secretary: Fiona Hiscox

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Committee Members:

Paul Bradford

Mark Bushby

Louise Frost

Max Halford

Eiohn Hayes

Ian Holten

Richard Hoyland

Nicki Pullen

Jacqueline Sandford

Chair's Introduction

and focusses on the following outcomes:

1. Everyone in the UK looks after their eyes and their sight
2. Everyone with an eye condition receives timely treatment and, if permanent sight loss occurs, early and appropriate services and support are available and accessible to all
3. A society in which people with sight loss can fully participate

The Devon LOC are fully up to date with developments in eye care and we are approaching all stakeholders to raise the awareness of eye care and contribute to the strategy for reduced sight loss and improved access to services.

I am also pleased that the Devon LOC has been shortlisted for the AOP Awards LOC of the Year 2013. Please click [here](#) to vote for Devon LOC.

May I also remind you that the LOC is there to represent you so please do let us have any thoughts or suggestions of how we can best represent our members. Remember, we are the gatekeepers of eye care and the LOC are working hard on your behalf.

Charles Bill

Chairman – Devon LOC

NOC 2013

NOC organised by the AOP for LOCSU
& the Optical Confederation

Thursday 6th and Friday 7th November
2013

Hilton Metropole, Birmingham

Click [here](#) for more information



LOC of the Year 2013

To vote for Devon click [here](#)

Did you know?

Commissioning Policies for NHS Procedures

Did you know there are treatments of Ophthalmic Conditions that are not routinely funded by the NHS (Low Priority Procedures)? There are set policies in place for Blepharoplasty, Chalazion (Meibomian Cysts) and Benign Skin Lesions

Decisions regarding treatment is made by the Restricted Treatment Funding Panel which meets on a monthly basis.

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

Meibomian Cysts (Chalzia)

The removal of a benign skin lesion, wherever it appears on the body is regarded as a procedure of low clinical priority. Surgery to improve appearance alone is not provided.

Meibomian Cysts are benign, granulomatous lesions of the upper or lower eyelid that will normally resolve within 6 months with conservative management. Conservative management consists of regular (four times a

day) application of heat packs and massage.

Incision and curettage of meibomian cysts will be funded where the following criteria are met:

- The meibomian cyst has been present continuously for more than 6 months
- Where conservative treatment has failed

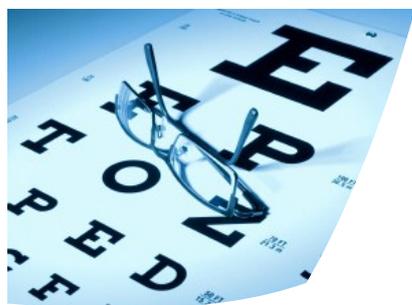
AND IS EITHER

- Present on the upper eyelid and interfering with vision, or
- The meibomian cyst is regularly infected (eg: 2 times within 6 month time frame) and in need of medical treatment for infection

Meibomian cysts that keep recurring or have atypical features require biopsy to rule out malignancy. Suspected eyelid malignancy should be referred for specialist opinion.

Private treatment for Meibomian Cysts

The average cost of this procedure privately is approximately £308.00 per cyst.



Eylea for treatment of wet AMD

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has announced that Eylea should be recommended for the treatment of patients with wet AMD in England and Wales.

Like current treatments for wet AMD, Eylea is given as an injection into the eye.

The draft guidance for Eylea is now with the consultees who have the opportunity to appeal the decision if they wish to do so. Final guidance is likely to be published in July.

Devon LOC Study Day



When: Friday 22nd November 2013

Time: 8.45am registration

Where: Buckfast Abbey.

Further details to follow

Reminder of changes of NHS Contact Details

The NHS England Area Team is responsible for the GOS contract for Optometry. The Area Team covers Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

There are two contacts in the NHS England Area Team:

1. Ian Turnbull, Contract Lead (Optometry), tel: (01752 434935) or ian.turnbull@nhs.net
2. Colette Wells, Primary Care Support Lead, tel: (01752 434943) or colettewells@nhs.net

For any contract variations, applications, discretionary payment agreements or general queries please contact Ian or Colette on the details above.

TRAC email address

The TRAC (Plymouth) email address for Wet AMD and Priority referrals has changed:

d-ccg.TRAC@nhs.net

LOC Details

Jonathan Drew (Business Manager)
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WOPEC is self taught training and is free of charge and available 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.



School of Health Professions—Optometry Supervisors

The Optometry Programme at Plymouth University has opened a state of the art clinic with the purpose of providing final year students with dedicated and specialised clinical experience. This modern clinic, the Centre of Eyecare Excellence (CEE), is located close to the main campus and the city centre and boasts 15 examination rooms including research rooms.

The University are looking for dynamic and passionate Optometrists to help supervise Optometry students in their final year. The post offers a great opportunity for those with a dedication to the professional development of both themselves and the next generation of Optometrists.

For an informal discussion contact Luisa Simo on 01752 588881 or email luisa.simo@plymouth.ac.uk

