



DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



Chairman's Introduction

We have had a very busy month in February supporting and organising the NHS England events. I am very proud that so many of you attended these events which shows how important your NHS contracts are. It is such a pity that the local CCG's do not want to support us looking after these patients that fall outside the GOS contract.

However, as an LOC, it is imperative that we make sure that you are aware of the restrictions of GOS and highlight what is expected from contractors when they claim.

I would stress that the LOC is not advising that you should not see these patients that fall outside our GOS contract just that you cannot claim a sight test for seeing them. It is solely your decision whether you see the patients as goodwill or charge a private fee. This advice is to protect you from future PPV visits that might end in re-claims as seen elsewhere in the country. If you would prefer not to see these patients then the CCG's pathway for them is to phone 111 which I think we can all agree is not the ideal situation.

We will now work tirelessly on the education of GP's, Pharmacist and Ophthalmologists for them to understand that when they send patient to their local opticians for an appointments that the majority of these may incur a charge. We will highlight that as opticians we are perfectly placed, fully qualified and we are very happy to see these patients but the patient will need to be charged until the CCG put in place a proper and sensible pathway. We will of course continue our negotiations to get a MECS commissioned in our area

If anyone has any questions then the LOC will be happy to answer them, however trivial you might think they are. We will keep you all informed and send out some more information in the coming weeks.

Charles Bill, Chairman

LOC REGIONAL EVENTS—MINOR EYE CONDITIONS AND GOS

February has been a busy month for the LOC with our 4 regional events across Devon. We were really pleased with the attendance of local contractors and performers with in excess of 190 attending one of the four events. **More information/ advice will be issued from the LOC shortly.**

IMPORTANT PERFORMERS LIST INFORMATION: OPTOMETRISTS EMAILED ABOUT NATIONAL PERFORMERS LIST

The NHS Shared Business Services are contacting optometrists on the National Performers List by area. This process began in the south-west recently and will continue over the rest of England.

SBS will initially contact optometrists directly via the email address they have registered.

Failure to respond to the initial email request will prompt a second request for information from the Optometrist by post. If SBS receives no response from the second communication, the optometrist will be removed from the national performers list

All Optometrists should check their emails to ensure they have not missed any from the Shared Business Services and also remain vigilant for any reference to this in their personal post.

Managers should take the precaution of discussing this matter with any employed and self-employed optometrists that currently work in store to make them aware of this issue.

HEALTH MINISTER BACKS BIGGER ROLE FOR OPTICAL PRACTICES

Health Minister, Alistair Burt, told delegates at 100% Optical that patients shouldn't see GPs for every medical ailment, and that CCGs need to use the whole range of health professionals – including those in eye care -- to innovate in health delivery.



Speaking for the first time to an exclusively optical audience the minister responsible for primary care services said that he was determined to ensure that the development of primary care was not centered solely around general practice and that all primary care professions are recognised and valued.

For more information click [here](#)

SUCCEED WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

SUPPORT THE FUTURE GENERATION OF OPTOMETRISTS IN THE SOUTH WEST

Support the Future Generation of Optometrists in the South West

The Optometry programme at Plymouth University would like to recruit Optometry practices to host their first and second year students for a week for each year group during the next academic year.

The 2 weeks which are provisionally timetabled are w/c 7/11/2016 and w/c 27/03/17.

The November placement is for first year students where they undertake an observational week with the emphasis on the students developing an understanding of the patient journey in primary care optometry.

The March placement is for second years who by this time will have developed some clinical skills and understanding of their role, and where possible participate in practice activity under supervision, at the complete discretion of the supervising clinician.

There is an online training package to support supervisors in understanding the placement process, and a small amount of set up administration with a probable practice visit by the placement coordinator to support this process before any placement take place, taking about an hour.

If you are interested and feel you may be able to support this process please contact Fiona Hiscox, Optometry Lecturer and Placement Co-coordinator via email fiona.hiscox@plymouth.ac.uk or telephone 01752 588887 on a Tuesday or Wednesday for further information.



SECTOR PUBLISHES NEW OPTICAL WORKFORCE SURVEY

Led by the College of Optometrists, the survey collated views and information about the profession from 4,000 optometrists and dispensing opticians.

80% of optometrists and 79% of DOs rate their overall job satisfaction 5, 6, or 7 using a scale of 1-7 (1+ extremely dissatisfied and 7 extremely satisfied).

Further results of the survey can be found [here](#)

Local vacancies are on the Devon LOC website here:

<http://www.devonloc.co.uk/advertisements>

Devon Local Optical Committee: Representing, supporting and communicating with local contractors and performers to ensure, as gatekeepers of eyecare, effective delivery of Ophthalmic Services across the whole of Devon.

Devon Local Optical Committee

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T: 01392 834026 @: www.devonloc.co.uk



Scan to view Website (QR)



COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS JOINT SUPERVISION

If you think you don't have the time or space to supervise a pre-registration trainee, why not join forces with a colleague in another practice?

Optometrists who may think they don't have the time or space to supervise a trainee can register their interest with us to joint supervise with another optometrist in their area.

For more information click [here](#)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN MEDICAL RETINA ACCREDITED BY THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS

This part-time programme is delivered online via Ulster University's virtual learning environment 'Blackboard Learn' and requires only one face-to-face training weekend on the Belfast Campus.

This course is an exciting opportunity for Optometrists to refresh and enhance their knowledge and clinical skills in the area of medical retina. The aim of this College of Optometrists accredited course is to provide community and hospital based optometrists with enhanced knowledge of common medical retinal conditions.

For more information click [here](#)

FREE ONLINE CET WITH WOPEC



Wales Optometry Postgraduate Education Centre
Canolfan Addysg Optometrigr Ôl-raddedig Cymru

WOPEC provide a wide range of postgraduate taught courses as well as short courses for optometrists and eye care professionals in the UK and Internationally.

Devon LOC have **FREE** activation codes for online courses with WOPEC. These include Cataract, Glaucoma, Low vision, PEARS and Learning Disabilities.

If you would like to undertake any of these short online courses and would like more information please contact Jonathan Drew.

Chair: Charles Bill (chair@devonloc.co.uk)

Vice Chair: Max Halford (max@devonloc.co.uk)

Secretary: Fiona Hiscox (secretary@devonloc.co.uk)

Treasurer: Daniel Tabb (treasurer@devonloc.co.uk)

Committee Members:

Nicola Burke, Mark Bushby, Josie Forte, Eiohn Hayes, Ian Holten, Greg Mann, Peter Noakes and Nicki Pullen

Business Manager: Jonathan Drew (jdrew@devonloc.co.uk)