



# DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



## Chairman's Introduction

As most of you are aware Devon LOC has been dealing with cases of inappropriate discharging of patients back into the community from two of our local eye units. In these cases patients have been asked to attend their local opticians for example for routine monitoring on naevi, follow ups to check post cataract and a few other conditions. I originally wrote to the consultants involved many months ago and explained that the GOS contract was not designed to see post hospital follow up's. I very clearly explained NHS England's position on this and the possible ramifications to practices if GOS fee's were claimed for appointments for these patients. I was therefore disappointed to hear from practitioners that this form of discharge is still occurring and letters are still being sent to patients asking them to have follow up's in the community.

I have again written to the hospitals concerned this time adding that in the absence of an agreed community enhanced services pathway responsibility for these patients aftercare remains with the hospitals. I also explained that we are unable to fill out "post cataract outcome forms" outside of an agreed post cataract enhanced service.

Devon LOC have produced a template letter to the referring consultant which you can use should you receive a request from a patient and I would encourage you to utilise these.

Devon LOC works extraordinarily hard to promote community enhanced services to the CCG's and the hospitals, most of whom totally understand the benefits of these to our patients. We need to ensure that GOS is not being used inappropriately as a free form of community follow up service which would totally undermine its purpose.

Max Halford, Chairman



**NEW FREE CET WOPEC MODULE**  
Devon LOC can now issue code for the **Children's Vision WOPEC module**.

Other modules include Minor Eye Conditions, Low Vision, Learning Disabilities, Cataract and Glaucoma.

For more information or codes to access these courses please contact Jonathan Drew ([jdrew@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:jdrew@devonloc.co.uk))



**Devon LOC in Optometry Today**  
Devon LOC have recently had some national press on the work they undertake and the under-utilised potential of community optometrists and dispensing opticians.

One article covered our recent publication of our brochure of services entitled Local and Accessible Eyecare services. See the OT article [here](#) and the brochure on our website [here](#)

The second article was a review of our talk at Vision 2017—a national conference based in London. We stated that being persistent and knowing the right person to speak to is key to making progress as a Local Optical Committee (LOC) - see the article [here](#)

## BROCHURE OF SERVICES—LOCAL AND ACCESSIBLE EYECARE

The Devon LOC brochure of service can be downloaded from the [LOC website](#)—please use this resource to promote local eye care services

**Local Eyecare Services**  
THE RIGHT CARE, IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME BY THE RIGHT PROFESSIONAL

Local eye health services can significantly reduce the need on secondary care, are more convenient for patients, provide good value for money, as well as make greater use of optometry skills.

The demographic of the UK is ageing, bringing with it increased numbers of patients with eye conditions such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), cataracts and glaucoma.

The Local optician workforce are best placed to take on the work because they are:

- Trained, qualified, registered and registered eye care providers
- Equipped with modern examination and diagnostic instruments
- Easily accessible, located at the heart of the communities they serve
- Able to provide appointments swiftly and when it suits patients

**UNDER-UTILISED RESOURCE OF LOCAL OF OPTOMETRISTS AND DISPENSING OPTICIANS**

**Solutions for the rising demand on eye care services**

**MINOR EYE CONDITIONS**  
A Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS) uses the skills of primary care Opticians to triage, manage and prioritise patients who would otherwise attend A&E or their GP.

This will improve 7 day access to eye care services for patients (including during extended hours on weekends).

The proposal supports the national and local strategic priorities of providing care closer to home by moving appropriate work from secondary to primary care settings and freeing up vital capacity within ophthalmology services.

**CATARACT FOLLOW-UP CONSULTATIONS**  
Cataract surgery is the most frequently undertaken surgical intervention in the UK.

Following day case cataract surgery at the Treatment Centre the patient is discharged with appropriate instructions and medication. By rebooking a local post-operative cataract service the patient is offered their follow-up appointment in a local optician practice instead of having to attend their local hospital.

**STABLE GLAUCOMA MONITORING**  
Glaucoma is a disease which tends itself to regular review in a local based setting. Approximately 10% of UK blindness registrations are attributed to glaucoma and around 2% of people older than 40 years have glaucoma.

A local Glaucoma Scheme provides a regular glaucoma review for stable disease through local Optometrists. This releases clinical capacity in the secondary care service, and provides services more locally.

**OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
Other local eye care services that can be delivered by Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians are:

- Refinement of intra-ocular pressure
- Monitoring of Stable Age Related Macular Degeneration
- Extended services for adults with Learning Disabilities
- Managing children's visual needs
- Diabetic Retinal Screening
- Monitoring of Ocular Hypertension

**VISION CHART**  
E  
F P  
T O Z  
L P E D  
R E C F  
D E C E F  
D E C E F

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**  
Optometrists: Specialist training to enhance the skills to identify eye problems, refer to hospital where appropriate, offer advice and when necessary provide contact lenses.

**DISPENSING OPTICIANS**  
Dispensing: Fit and supply contact lenses and, with an additional qualification, contact lenses.

**OPTICIAN PRACTICES**  
There are 115 optician practices across Devon which already provide high quality NHS and private care. This care is provided by an Optician workforce which is easily accessible to local people.

**LOCAL RECOGNITION**  
The Devon Local Optical Committee have been awarded information about local eye care services provided in local optician practices.

Contact us to find out how we can help the growing demand on eye care services across Devon

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
[www.devonloc.co.uk](http://www.devonloc.co.uk)  
[www.dcoos.co.uk](http://www.dcoos.co.uk)  
[www.dcoos.org.uk](http://www.dcoos.org.uk)  
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VENUE:  
HILTON LONDON  
PADDINGTON  
@TopconGB #NationalOCT17  
www.nationaloctconference.co.uk  
Click here to register your interest

NATIONAL OCT  
CONFERENCE 2017

Comes  
to London!  
19-20 NOVEMBER



### SAVE THE DATE: The National OCT Conference 2017

The only conference to completely focus on Optical Coherence Tomography is coming to London this autumn. The third National OCT Conference, hosted by Topcon University is to take place at the Hilton London Paddington on Sunday 19th and Monday 20th November.

Offering at least 19 CET points for optometrists, as well as points for CLOs and DOs, the two days incorporate a range of clinical lectures, skills and discussion workshops and peer discussions to suit a multitude of user levels.

### POTENTIAL SCAM ALERT

The GOC have been made aware that someone is calling GOC registrants purporting to be calling 'on behalf of the GOC' and trying to obtain personal contact information over the phone. The caller has given the name of Katie and has been calling from a Manchester-based landline number ending 2081.

Please be aware that these individuals are not employed or appointed by the GOC to make these calls and the GOC would strongly advise you not to provide this personal information. The GOC, or anyone acting on our behalf, would never ask for your personal information in this manner.

The GOC have reported the event to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and to Action Fraud.

The GOC would recommend that if you have passed on any data or you are concerned about this matter, please contact the ICO on 0303 123 1113.

If you would like to discuss the matter with the GOC please do not hesitate to contact them on 020 7580 3898.

### CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET)

See the Devon LOC website for an updated list of CET events both locally and nationally—click [here](#) to see the LOC website



**THE CLAIM WINDOW IS OPEN FOR CET TAKEN IN 2016  
YOU HAVE UNTIL 31ST OCTOBER TO CLAIM YOUR ALLOWANCE**

Claims for CET undertaken by ophthalmic practitioners between 1 January to 31 December 2016 must be submitted between 1 July 2017 and 31 October 2017

As a reminder, CET allowance payments are payable to contractors. A payment can be claimed by a contractor in respect of either:

(a) CET he/she has undertaken personally in the year between 1 January to 31 December 2016.

(b) CET undertaken in the year between 1 January to 31 December 2016 by an ophthalmic practitioner on the Ophthalmic Performers List.

The CET allowance for 2016 is £545.

Please follow the steps below to submit a claim:

- 1) Complete the form (see our website [here](#) to download the form)
- 2) Sign and date the form in the appropriate place(s)
- 3) Scan the signed form and attach to an email
- 4) Put '2017 CET claim' in the email subject header
- 5) Email to [PCSE.Optical@nhs.net](mailto:PCSE.Optical@nhs.net)

You will receive a case reference number from PCSE once they have received your claim form. Please note you are asked to submit only one claim form per email so that each form has a unique case reference that can be tracked.

The preferred route for submitting CET claims is by email to [PCSE.Optical@nhs.net](mailto:PCSE.Optical@nhs.net) but if you prefer to submit by post you must send to:

Primary Care Support England  
PO Box 350  
Darlington  
DL1 9QN

FOR INFORMATION: the address of the area teams is:

NHS England, South Region - South (South West)  
(Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset & South Gloucestershire & Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly)

Peninsula House,  
Kingsmill Road,  
Saltash  
Cornwall  
PL12 6LE



**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

Deer Park Business Centre, Haldon Hill, Kennford, Exeter, EX6 7XX

T: 01392 834026 @: [www.devonloc.co.uk](http://www.devonloc.co.uk)



Scan to view  
Website (QR)



Chair: Max Halford ([max@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:max@devonloc.co.uk))

Vice Chair: Charles Bill ([charles@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:charles@devonloc.co.uk))

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

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

### Committee Members:

Michael Beavis, Mark Bushby, Kath Dandy, Jo Holmes, Ian Holten, Greg Mann, Peter Noakes and Nicki Pullen

**Business Manager: Jonathan Drew** ([jdrew@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:jdrew@devonloc.co.uk))