Our ref: LC&POPTOs16DEC13

Exceptional Cases Team

 Lockton House

Clarendon Road

Cambridge

 CB2 8FH

Headquarters Tel: 01223 725400
Safehaven Fax: 01223 725592

Email:

Web: [www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk](http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk)

Date: 16 December 2013

To: All Cambridgeshire and
Peterborough Opticians

Dear Colleague

**CATARACTS SURGICAL THRESHOLD POLICY**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body has recently endorsed the Clinical Policies Forum review of the Cataracts Surgical Threshold Policy – a copy of the policy and referral proforma are attached for your attention. The policy has been reviewed against available evidence and benchmarked against the policies of other CCGs with similar population profiles. It now covers both direct referral by optometrists and referral by GPs. The policy and referral proforma are also available on the CCG clinical policies web site as follows: <http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/CCPF/PHPolicies.aspx>

The criteria have been simplified to cover visual acuity of 6/12 or worse in the worst eye (applies to both first and second eye surgery). The main change to the policy relates to the DVLA standard for driving.

Where a patient does not meet the policy threshold, treatment is considered a low priority and will only be commissioned by the NHS on an exceptional basis. Optometrists or GPs need to apply to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG Exceptional and Individual Funding Request Panel for approval of funding. The funding request form is also available on the CCG clinical policies web site as follows: <http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/CCPF/ExcptnalandIFR.aspx>. Ophthalmology services at hospitals will not be funded for any cataract surgery done that does not meet the policy criteria unless Exceptional Funding is in place prior to the operation.

Forms should be completed electronically, providing as much information as possible in order for the Panel to make a considered decision (we are unable to accept hand written forms as errors may occur when deciphering hand writing) and should be submitted to the Exceptional Cases Team nhsnet email account: cpccge-ifr@nhs.net. Instructions for completion of the form are also available on the form.

Funding requests are acknowledged within three days of receipt of the request and you will be provided with a unique identifying number for the request. Funding requests are discussed at Fortnightly Review Panels for Drugs and Non Drugs (the Drug and Non Drug Panels meet on alternate weeks on a Tuesday). Providing all the relevant information was made available to the Panel, a decision will be notified to you within 5 days of the Panel meeting.

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All Cambridgeshire and -2- 16 December 2013

Peterborough Opticians

Further information about the funding request process is available in the CCG Exceptional and Individual Funding Request Policy - available as follows: <http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/CCPF/ExcptnalandIFR.aspx>.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**JULIE ISTEAD**

**Clinical Policies Manager & Acting Exceptional Cases Team Manager**

Enc: Cataracts Policy and Referral Proforma for Cataract Surgery