**Subject:** **Updated Cataract Policy within Cambridgeshire**

Dear Optometrist,

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG have recently updated the Cataract Surgical Threshold Policy. Some of you have already received the updated policy via the NHS Gateway email message but I know that some of you have not yet seen the policy. I have attached the covering letter, updated policy and referral proforma to the email.

Under the new policy, any patient who does not meet the BCVA of 6/12 or worse will need to be informed to see their GP in order to determine their suitability for cataract surgery under exceptional circumstances. Please include in your letter to the GP the reasons why the patient needs to have the surgery even though they not meet the BCVa of 6/12 or worse – e.g. ansiometropia affecting stereopsis and therefore increasing the risk of a fall, etc.

Additionally, the policy mentions that patients who are smokers will need to have stopped smoking for 8-12 weeks. My suggestion is that you note on the patient record card that the patient has been advised to contact the local smoking cessation service at the time of referral. Many of the pharmacies offer smoking cessation advice.

The original email sent by the CCG is below:

*Dear Colleague*

*The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, Clinical Policies Forum have recently reviewed their Cataracts Policy and have requested that we circulate this information to all Opticians in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough locality.  A letter from the CCG is attached explaining the review, along with a copy of the policy and referral proforma.*

*A contact for further information is detailed in the attached letter.*

*Yours sincerely*

***JULIE ISTEAD******Clinical Policies Manager & Acting Exceptional Cases Team Manager*** *Tel:  01733 758482     Mobile:  07932 211838
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Email:**julie.istead@cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk****Emails of a confidential nature or containing patient data should be sent from your***[***nhs.net***](http://nhs.net) ***account to the following email address:***[*julie.istead@nhs.net*](https://web.nhs.net/owa/england.ea-primarycare%40nhs.net/UrlBlockedError.aspx) *Visit the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG Clinical Policies web site on:* [*http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk*](http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/)

Please note that I have shared this information with the optometrists who are interested in the cataract referral scheme as the policy came to my desk as part of my role within the Area Team not as part of the CCG – if you have any queries, please email Julie Istead directly.

Kind regards,

Rupal

Rupal Lovell-Patel

Optometry Professional Advisor (Friday's only)

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