Dear colleagues

We are implementing a **Rapid access service for patients with suspected wet AMD** at North West Anglia Foundation Trust. Our Trust’s Quality and Patient Safety strategy 2021-24, is to implement ‘Local care for local people’. This pathway has been designed for patients to receive timely care, closer to home. Kindly disseminate this to all the optometrists who refer to our Trust.

Effective from 8 January 2024, the process of referring a patient to the wet AMD rapid access service in order for them to receive timely treatment, will be:

1. Completion and emailing a suspected wet AMD **referral form** (see attached) to the email [*nwangliaft.wetamd@nhs.net*](mailto:nwangliaft.wetamd@nhs.net)with a copy to the GP.

It will be the only way to refer such patients in future.

1. You are welcome to attach any photographs or OCT images but is not mandatory
2. e-mail referrals without the standard referral form would not be accepted and will only delay the patients care
3. Forms with incomplete details will also suffer delays as they will be sent back to you for completion
4. Kindly include any additional details about the patient on the form itself, as information in the email body is unlikely to be captured
5. Please provide a **patient information leaflet** (see attached) to the patient which explains to them why you are making this referral and what they can expect of the next steps

All referrals will be sent feedback. The ophthalmology department is also making plans for our optometrist colleagues to take part in our teaching programmes and facilitate observation at our retinal clinics and treatment rooms. Likewise, we are happy to offer to make presentations at any LOC organised teaching events.

We look forward to your support in the implementation of this pathway.