

Western Cheshire Referral Pathways

This pathway should be used for all patients with a GP in: Western Cheshire. (Tarporley, Frodsham, Chester, Malpas, Bunbury, Ellesmere Port).

Patients with GPs in other areas: please use appropriate local pathway for that CCG.

	Pathway	Form	Notes
Wet AMD	Px presenting at reception/phone.	MECS via Optomanager	Investigate and diagnose via MECS pathway. The referral will need to be printed off Optomanager and faxed or securely emailed to COCH. Fax: 01244 363555 Email COCH.eyecasclinic@nhs.net Telephone triage to ensure they have received the referral.
Flashes and/or Floaters	Px presenting at reception/phone.	MECS via Optomanager	Investigate via MECS pathway.
	If comes to light during sight test:	MECS via Optomanager	Stop the eye test and start to investigate the recent onset of flashes and/or floaters via MECS pathway. Advise PX that examination is not a full sight test.
Emergencies	Px presenting at reception/phone.	MECS via Optomanager	Investigate and diagnose via MECS pathway. The referral will need to be printed off Optomanager and faxed or securely emailed to COCH. Fax: 01244 363555 Email COCH.eyecasclinic@nhs.net Telephone triage to ensure they have received the referral. The exceptions are penetrating ocular wounds or chemical burns which should be directed straight to A&E. You may wish to start ocular irrigation for the chemical burns.
Urgent	Px presenting at reception/phone.	MECS via Optomanager	Investigate and diagnose via MECS pathway. The referral will need to be printed off Optomanager and faxed or securely emailed to COCH. Fax: 01244 363555 Email COCH.eyecasclinic@nhs.net Telephone triage to ensure they have received the referral.
Cataract	Fax form to Patient Choice on 01244 362846	Cataract Referral Form	Handover the information sheet showing the Patient Choice contact number. All providers will be discussed. Top 4 chosen are COCH, Spa Medica and Spire at Murrayfield and Stretton (Cheshire)

Post Cataract	Spa Medica Post Cat Scheme COCH have not commissioned a post cataract assessment pathway.	Medisoft	Spa Medica Post Cataract Scheme requires the Optom to have completed the Spa Medica training evening. Once accredited, the logins are provided by Spa Medica to the Medisoft platform in order to upload the consultation details.
Chronic Open Angle Glaucoma	IOP >= 32 mmHg: Refer as Emergency as above to COCH	GOS18	COCH Fax: 01244 363555 Email COCH.eyecasclinic@nhs.net Telephone triage to ensure they have received the referral.
	31<IOPS > 24 or difference of >= 5 mmHg and/or fields defect. Accredited Practices manage via Glaucoma Repeat Reading Service. (GRR)	GRR via Optomanager	Follow the GRR pathway on Optomanager.
Routine Referrals		GOS18	Remember there are some conditions that need referral via the MECS pathway to the GP and some that are referred via GOS18 direct to GP. Check Optomanager for the list.
			Non compliance to these pathways may lead to a delay in treatment for your patients
In all cases you should choose the best referral pathway for your patient. You are advised to telephone to confirm receipt of any Urgent referral. Email referrals should only be sent via a secure nhs.net email account. Non-accredited optometrists in MECS or GRR should direct their PX to an accredited optometrist within the practice or to an accredited practice if your practice is not accredited. The list of accredited practices is available on the Cheshire LOC website.			
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