**Ophthalmology routine referral pathway update for Opticians**

Changes to the ophthalmology routine referral pathway are currently under development, with a planned roll out date of May 2024. The Local Optical Committee are supporting the ICB with the development of this pathway.

These changes will allow optometrists to refer patients to secondary care for further investigation or treatment. To enable this change, a Coventry and Warwickshire Ophthalmology Coordination Service will be commissioned to manage routine referrals and opticians will need register to use the Eyecare electronic Referral System (EeRS).

The Implementation will be phased with a few optometry practices going live initially with this growing over several weeks.

What this means for Opticians:

* Referrals from the Optometrists can be sent via EeRS along with any supporting images and documents directly to the Coventry and Warwickshire Ophthalmology Coordination Service.
* On completion of a review by the Coventry and Warwickshire Ophthalmology Coordination Service, the referral will be converted to a booking or returned directly to the Optometrist for additional information.
* Optician practices will be informed whether the referral has been accepted via Cinapsis, this will include a UBRN number which can be used for communication with the secondary care provider.
* Optician practices will be able to track referrals using the EeRS system.
* GP practices will be informed of the referral by email from Cinapsis, they will receive a copy of the referral letter which can be added to the patient record.

It is expected that these changes will provide benefits to both patients and optometrists, such as:

* Faster and more convenient routine referrals, with no need for email, post, or fax in future.
* The ability to attach documents and images (including eye scans) to the referral.
* Improved communication and feedback between primary and secondary care, with access to a patients’ referral status and outcomes.
* Enhanced patient safety and quality of care, with reduced risk of referral errors or delays.

We need your help to ensure we have the correct information to contact your practice, and what support you may need to be ready for this change. Please complete this short form: <https://forms.office.com/e/rMYtw5Jk1D>

Further information is available on the [LOC Website](https://www.loc-online.co.uk/coventryandwarwickshire-loc/).

ENDS