**ORTHOPTIC and PAEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY NEWSLETTER**

 **WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION 2023**

This is the first Newsletter combining information from both Royal Derby Hospital and Queens Hospital Burton Sites as we now have a new joint Head of Department.

**CURRENT WAITING TIMES FOR NEW PATIENTS**

 **RDH QHB**

Joint Orthoptic/Optometry 2 months 2 months

Secondary Screening 1 months N/A

**INTERPRETERS**

We appreciate not all patients have English as their first language.

Please state on referrals if an interpreter is needed and what language is required.

**CLAIMING PAYMENTS**

When claiming HES(P) payments please only send the original voucher documentation into the Trust.

Photocopies will not be accepted, and payment will not be made.

**CURRENT HES PATIENTS**

Patients who are under the HES do not require routine refractions in practice unless requested by the hospital.

**SAFEGUARDING**

Please can you let the department know if parents fail to collect glasses rather than just discarding them as this could have safeguarding implications.

**POLITE REMINDERS**

* Please remember that HES vouchers cover the repair and replacement of glasses for 12 months irrespective of next hospital appointment.
* Please record Fundoscopy results on referral form.

**REFRACTIVE ADAPTATION**

**The importance of refraction adaptation on clinical treatment and decision making:**

A recent survey of Orthoptists has shown that 94% will prescribe refractive adaptation before commencing further treatment.

A study by Moseley et al of 65 patients showed an improvement of up to 0.18 LogMAR units with glasses prescription only, irrespective of their type of amblyopia. Thus, leading to many children reaching maximum levels of vision without any other intervention.

Several subsequent studies have confirmed that refractive adaptation does occur particularly in patients with anisometropic and strabismic amblyopia but slightly less in those with a combination.

The recommended period is between 18-22 weeks, but the general consensus is to review the child after 12 weeks to reassess their vision before deciding if any further treatment is required.

If a significant improvement has been identified at the 12-week visit, but visual acuity is not yet at maximum levels, the child may be left a further 12 weeks before treatment is advocated.

It is important that children are allowed to adapt to their refractive correction without unnecessary alterations to the prescription before referral into the HES

Please consider this when making referrals and assess children back in practice after prescription of glasses, particularly where no strabismus is detected.

If you have any comments with regards to the newsletter, or there is anything you would like to see included, please email.

Michelle Wood, Deputy Head Orthoptist, RDH

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**PATCHING OLDER CHILDREN**

Occlusion therapy is only offered in older children if they are:

* Between the ages 8-12 years with anisometropic amblyopia.
* VA in the amblyopic eye is between 0.3 (6/12) and 0.5 (6/19) following a standard period of refractive adaptation.
* Fundus and media examination is normal.

**Under our current guidelines we do not offer patching treatment for patients over 7 years with strabismic amblyopia**

**SCHOOL SCREENING**

Please be mindful that school screening is not active in Staffordshire or Derby County, therefore parents may attend with younger children. Any attempt at assessment is beneficial prior to referral.

**THANK YOU**

**JUST TO SAY THANKS FOR ALL THE WORK YOU DO IN YOUR COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT PEADIATRIC EYE CARE IN THE REGION**