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**ORTHOPTIC and PAEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY NEWSLETTER**

**WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION 2024**

This Newsletter combines information from both Royal Derby Hospital and Queens Hospital Burton Sites.

**CURRENT WAITING TIMES FOR NEW PATIENTS**

 **RDH QHB**

Joint Orthoptic/Optometry 4 months 2 months

Secondary Screening 4 months N/A

**REFERRAL INFORMATION**

Patients are triaged based on the referral information; therefore, it is essential that we have as much information as possible even if potentially not accurate, please record:

* Whether cyclopentolate was used or not
* Any refraction even if not prescribed.
* Any reduction in prescription given to the patient.
* Fundoscopy results to rule out pathology.
* Vision results
* Parental concerns

Also comment if there are other barriers to testing for example language barriers, ASD or SEN so that we can assess, contact families and make reasonable adjustments if necessary.

**HES(P) VOUCHERS**
After discussion at the Ophthalmology Advisory Group, we have adjusted the HES(P) document to remove any ambiguity. Children are refracted yearly in the hospital and therefore the prescription is valid for 12 months.

Any repair or replacement needs to be carried out in this period.

**ROUTINE REFRACTION**

Please remember that children under the Hospital Eye Team do not require routine refractions in practice unless this is requested by the Hospital Clinician.

**MANAGING EXPECTATIONS**

As professionals it is always our intentions to provide the best care and outcome for our patients, but we need to mindful of clinical expectations when making a referral.

0.2 (6/9.5) is generally considered the gold standard for occlusion success, therefore children achieving better than this level are not going to have significant increases in their vision from treatment.

The Hospital eye service is extremely busy, and we must question whether it is appropriate to refer in children for potential occlusion therapy when their poorer eye is at 6/7.5 or better.

Being referred and attending the hospital can be an extremely stressful situation for all involved and what is that you are expecting the orthoptic department to achieve?

**ADVICE**

**SCHOOL SCREENING**

Apart from Derby City school screening no longer exists as a service.

We are trying to make sure that parents and carers are signposted to local optometrists between the ages of 4.5-5 years to have a routine eye test.

This may increase the number of children you will see within your practices.

**Please remember to provide the address of your practice on referral letters.**

**This will enable us to reply directly if required.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE HOSPITAL EYE TEAM**

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

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