

Some common terms and acronyms used at LOC meetings and in minutes.

Last updated 30 June 2023. If you find a term missing, please email whitestar123@hotmail.com and we will try to include it.

The LOC will use certain terms and acronyms in meetings and minutes which can be hard to grasp. This stems from the NHS being very fond of using acronyms (see NHS Speak) and seems to be inventing new ones all the time. Here are a few to help people new to LOCs.

Don't worry about trying to memorise this, just refer to it as you feel you need to.

Acute Trust – Basically the hospitals e.g. Russell's Hall.

AOB-Any other business. An agenda item near the end of a meeting which allows matters not otherwise on the agenda to be raised. Observers are welcome to raise matters under this agenda item.

AOP-Association of Optometrists, a member organisation offering services to Optometrists, Dispensing Opticians and Optical Practices including legal advice and defence for matters relating to the provision of eyecare services.

CCG-Clinical Commissioning Group. These were the local NHS bodies who commissioned health care services, now superseded by ICBs

CPD- Continuing Professional Development, previously known as CET or Continuing Education and Training.

Community Services – see Services delivered outside of hospital.

Community Monitoring – aka Primary care-based management. Suitable patients are discharged from the hospital and monitored by an accredited optometrist, who re-refers if there is progression e.g. stable ocular hypertension, stable glaucoma, treated stable former wet AMD.

CUES – superseded MECS. An enhanced service that allows optometrists to be paid for seeing and managing minor eye conditions e.g. red eye, flashes and floaters etc. outside a normal sight test.

DO-Dispensing Optician.

DOCET- The Directorate of Optometric Continuing Education. They produce their own CET material, and it is possible to apply for funding for CET events from them.

ECLO – Eye Clinic Liaison Officer. Non-clinical member of eye clinic staff who provide practical and emotional support to those recently diagnosed with an eye condition.

EeRS – Electronic Eyecare Referral System. The planned scheme to allow practices to refer to secondary care via a web based interface

EGM-Extraordinary general meeting. A general meeting other than the usual annual general meeting.

Enhanced Services – See Extended Primary Care Services.

Extended Primary Care Services – Formally Enhanced Services. These are services that are commissioned in addition to the normal sight test contract (GOS). This includes services like MECS, Repeat IOP schemes (IOPRM), and cataract direct referral.

GERS- Glaucoma Enhanced Referral Service. This is a locally commissioned scheme where all glaucoma referrals instead of going directly to the hospital are routed through accredited optometrists who perform a series of tests

(usually visual fields, Goldmann, dilated binocular disc assessment, and van Herrick). Accreditation is usually in the form of the WOPEC Glaucoma qualification plus its Professional Certificate in Glaucoma.

GOC- General Optical Council. The statutory regulator for the Optical Profession.

GOS-General Optical Services. NHS sight test services which are now the responsibility of NHS England.

GIRFT – Getting It Right First Time – an NHS initiative to share best practice and prevent duplication of work

HLO-Healthy Living Optical Practice Scheme. Dudley had the first scheme in the country, and it is analogous to the Healthy Living Pharmacy Scheme.

HVLC – High Volume Low Complexity – a mechanism for streamlining work flow, especially in cataract surgery to increase numbers of patients seen in a session and reduce waiting lists. It's what the ISPs do well.

HWMOC- Heart of West Midlands Optical Confederation. The successor organisation to the Regional Optical Committee. The confederation comprises the following LOCs: Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Birmingham, and Solihull LOC. Each LOC nominates two people to sit on the committee to represent their respective LOC's constituents. Its role is to coordinate our approach across the region. It is not a statutory body, and its authority stems only from the LOCs decision to continue to support it.

ICB- Integrated care board. The NHS organisation which is responsible for planning and delivery of health services in their designated area they are responsible for. Dudley is covered by the Black Country ICB.

ICP - A statutory committee jointly formed between the ICB and all upper-tier local authorities that fall within the ICS area

ICS - Integrated Care System - partnerships of organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up health and care services, and to improve the lives of people who live and work in their area in our case The Black Country.

IOP-intra ocular pressure

IOPRM- IOP repeat measures. Usually refers to enhanced service schemes where pressures over 21mmHg found using non-contact tonometry at a sight test are checked again with a Goldmann applanation tonometer for a fee.

IP- Independent Prescribing. A higher qualification that allows the Optometrist to prescribe certain drugs e.g. steroids for eye conditions. Locally there are two main barriers to this being successful. One is that the qualification requires hospital placements which are scarce. The second is that there is currently no method to obtain a prescription pad to prescribe NHS funded medicines.

ISP – Independent Sector Provider – private companies providing NHS services e.g. Spa Medica

LeHN – Local eye health network. Local bodies set up by NHS England to bring stakeholders together to try to improve services. May include ophthalmologists, orthoptists, optometrists, health commissioners, patient groups, the voluntary sector e.g. Beacon etc. Currently this network is dormant locally despite the efforts of local LOCs.

LDC- Local Dental committee, The local NHS representative committee for the Dental Profession.

LMC- Local Medical Committee, The local NHS representative committee for Medics.

LOC- Local optical committee, The local NHS representative committee for Optics, in our case Dudley LOC.

LOCSU-Local Optical Committee Support Unit. A national body that receives funding from LOCs, in return for offering support to those LOCs. Each LOC is free to decide to fund it or not. It provides invaluable help in trying to commission enhanced services

LPC- Local Pharmacy Committee, The local NHS representative committee for Pharmacy

MCN – Managed Clinical Network – groups of clinicians working together around a single speciality e.g. Glaucoma

MECS- enhanced service superseded by CUES

MECC- Making Every Contact Count. An NHS initiative to try to get the most out of every contact with a patient in order to address other health issues apart from the one the patient was attending for e.g. smoking cessation.

NHS Speak – An informal term used for the terminology used by the NHS. For some reason the NHS likes to make up its own terminology for things, and then expect everyone to use that terminology. It results in making it difficult for anyone who is not in the NHS to understand what someone is talking about regarding NHS services etc. It also results in needing guides like this.

NOC-National Optometric conference. Annual conference organised by LOCSU on behalf of the AOP. It brings LOC committee members together from across England in order to inform them of developments in optometry and allow networking. Mainly geared in recent years to trying to get enhanced services commissioned.

OAs-Optical Assistants

OCT-Optical coherence tomography (scanner) which provides imaging of the retinal layers.

Opera- The web based system for recording outcome of enhanced services, successor to Webstar/Optomanager

OSCEs-Objective Structured Clinical examination. Newer type of examination where candidates are tested at a series of stations that each deal with a clinical scenario or test a clinical skill e.g. Volk.

OT- Optometry Today, the monthly news and CPD journal produced by the AOP.

PCN – Primary Care Network - GP practices working together with community, mental health, social care, pharmacy, hospital and voluntary services in their local areas in groups of practices

PCSE-Primary care support England. Responsible for managing claims for fees for NHS services and other GOS matters.

PEC – Primary Eyecare Company. A national not-for-profit company set up by the LOCSU. The company tenders for and administers enhanced service schemes. This allows commissioners (primarily ICBs) to deal with one point of contact, and the Regional Company then sub-contracts with practices. Via memo of understanding it is answerable to the LOC, and is committed to allowing any practice that is appropriately accredited to be able to join local schemes.

PIFU – Patient Initiated Follow Ups – where a patient is not discharged from hospital, but an initiate their follow-up appointments as and when required, e.g. when symptoms or circumstances change. E.g recurrent keratitis

Primary care-based management. See community monitoring

RNIB-Royal National Institute of Blind people

ROC- Regional Optical Committee. See HWMOC

Services delivered outside of hospital – formally Community Services. Services formally delivered at the hospital, but now delivered elsewhere e.g. outreach clinics, optometry practices etc.

Services delivered by primary care in partnership with hospital – formally Shared Care. This is where services are offered by community optometry but with a consultant at the hospital still in overall control and who has ultimate responsibility.

Shared Care – see Services delivered by primary care in partnership with hospital.

WMUECN-West Midlands Urgent & Emergency Care Network

WOPEC - Wales Optometry Postgraduate Education Centre. An education establishment that offers higher qualifications in optometry in subject areas such as Glaucoma, Cataract pre and post, MECS etc. Some of these are funded via LOCSU.

Workforce Development- The local LOCs have been successful in applying to the NHS for funding to develop the profession locally, primarily by offering CPD and part funding for individuals to obtain higher qualifications e.g. IP