



East Sussex Local Optical Committee

18th November 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Please see below for advice for those offering post cataract examinations in East Sussex:

We have received feedback from Eastbourne Hospital that some patients have reported that, when attending for their post-op cataract check-up in the community, they have been advised that they can only have their test if they agree to an OCT, which would be at a charge. Also, some patients have reported that they did not receive a slit lamp examination during the consultation. The hospital has raised this with the LOC as an issue.

Under the contractual agreement for the post-op cataract service between the practice and CCG, it is a requirement for practices to perform a visual acuity check, refraction and slit lamp assessment as part of the fee they receive.

As a LOC we understand that the use of OCT, especially during this COVID-19 period, can be of great benefit. We would, however, like to remind practices that, for these cohort of patients, it should be optional and not a condition to being seen, as it is with any other NHS patient.

We are sure that the issues that have been raised by the hospital are isolated incidents and possibly some information may have been lost in translation. We would, however, ask that all practices offering the post-op cataract service be mindful of their contractual agreements.

With Thanks,

East Sussex Local Optical Committee

www.eastsussexloc.org.uk

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