

For all practitioners in Herts Valleys CCG area referring to CHEC:

In a recent communication at the end of May 2020, HVCCG have confirmed that there is no change in the referral process to CHEC and they would expect all GP and Optometry practices to refer patients to their service as usual.

CHEC have now restarted their normal services and they are working strictly to the NHSE guidelines in terms of PPE requirements and social distancing for seeing patients in their clinics.

They will continue to provide from the GP practices in all four localities but are also looking into investing in mobile units. They are fully staffed but, at present, activity levels are low. Currently, they are mainly providing non face to face work. As activity levels build up from next month (June), this is likely to change.

Here is some information regarding CHEC's activity from April 19 to Feb 20: average number of patients seen per month 2277 which varied from 1877 in December 19 to 2876 in July19.

For March 2020

No. of patients seen - referrals from GP & Optometrists = 2708

Onward referrals to HES = 79

Follow ups undertaken = 1715

For April 20

No. of patients seen - referrals from GP & Optometrists = 1030

Onward referrals to HES = 11

Follow ups undertaken = 494

As a reminder:

CHEC are commissioned to clinically triage and provide services for adults aged 16 years and over and will act as a referral management hub for all referrals except 2ww and same day emergency referrals. The service is delivered by ophthalmologists, where all referrals received will be triaged and actioned appropriately by booking patients into community clinics or forwarding them onward to the patient's choice of Hospital Eye Services where appropriate or returned back to the referrer with a management plan.

They will also accept direct referrals from local optometrists, provide advice and guidance to queries from GP's and Optometrists and provide clinical assessment and treatment to patients using suitable staff such as diagnostic technicians, optometrists and ophthalmology consultants.

Advice & Guidance: Optometrists can use the Advice & Guidance service by emailing their queries to: advice.chec@nhs.net

Please note that Optometrists who do not have a secure nhs.net email id, should not use email to share patient identifiable data while using this service. Please use your CHEC portal or contact CHEC for a portal login if you do not already have one on 01772 717167 or Chec.herts@nhs.net.

Referrals to the service: All optometry practices are requested to send ophthalmology referrals directly to CHEC, excluding 2WW or same day emergency clinic referrals. Children referrals (under 16 years) which should be made via the patient's GP practice.