

## Understanding COTATS

### What is COTATS?

The Community Optometrist Triage Assessment & Treatment Service (COTATS) is an NHS specialised eye care service offered by accredited Optometrists in the community.

These appointments aim to:

- Diagnose and treat a range of eye conditions,
- Promote eye health,
- Allow early detection of eye problems,

The service provides personalized care and guidance and deflects patients from the Hospital Eye Services. Post COVID-19 hospital eye services are seeing a large increase in waiting times making this service more essential than ever.

### Conditions We Address:

- Anterior Eye Conditions such as Blepharitis
- Corneal Conditions such as abrasions/recurrent erosions
- Differential Diagnosis of Red Eye
- Dry Eyes/ Epiphora
- Epiretinal Membrane
- Field Defects
- Floaters/ Flashing Lights
- High IOP
- Ingrown Eyelashes
- Loss of Vision/ Blurred Vision
- Low Vision
- Naevus
- Non-Urgent ARMD
- Ocular Pain
- Optic Disc Anomalies
- Pinguecula/ Pterygium
- Reduced Vision
- Retinal Lesions
- Suspect Corneal Dystrophy
- Suspect Glaucoma

### Who Provides These Appointments?

Optometrists accredited and approved by the NHS Lincolnshire ICB.

### [How to access this service?](#)

GOS18 referral to EACH following your standard pathway.

### [Statistics 2022-2023](#)

COTATS Triaged – 7042 Referrals

Referrals dealt with in community – 3049

Result: 54% deflected from Hospital Eye Services.

### [Why use Community Optometrists?](#)

**Efficiency:** Patients can access appointments in a shorter time frame at their convenience. This makes it easier for patients to schedule appointments and receive timely care.

**Accessibility:** Community Optometrists are often more accessible, with multiple locations.

**Collaboration:** Close collaboration with local hospitals, community surgical schemes and medical professionals ensures seamless care coordination. If a patient requires specialised treatment or surgery, appropriate referrals are made.

### [Advice for Patients](#)

When making referrals please advise your patients –

Lincolnshire is part of a COTATS service. The referral I am making may mean you are seen by a specialised eye care service offered by accredited Optometrists in the community, as an alternative to the Hospital Eye Service.

### [Any queries or questions please contact:](#)

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