

NW London Optometry-led Community Eye Care Service

Primary Eyecare Services (PES) has been awarded a contract by NWL ICB to deliver an optometry led community eye care service following a procurement process. PES is a national not-for-profit optometry organisation, providing eye care services through local networks of optometry practices in the community. The NWL Service includes a:

- **Community Eye Service (CES), similar to a Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS)**
- **Pre-cataract referral assessment**
- **Glaucoma referral filtering service**

The services are NHS funded and will be available to all patients registered with a NWL ICB GP practice ie. patients with a Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hounslow, Hillingdon, Kensington & Chelsea or Westminster GP.

Community Eye Service (similar to MECS)

- CES is a symptom- based service for patients **aged 18 years and over** with a **recent** onset eye problem, such as sore eyes, red eyes or a visual disturbance.
- CES is provided by accredited optometrists in local accredited optometry practices/ opticians.
- Please ask the patient to **telephone** a CES/MECS accredited optometry practice of their choice, for triage and an appointment. CES is **not** a walk-in service.
- Patients triaged as eligible for the service will be seen within 24 hours if urgent and two days for a routine appointment
- Details of accredited practices can be found on the Primary Eyecare Services (PES) website: <https://primaryeyecare.co.uk/find-a-practice/>
- The CES/MECS patient leaflet is included with these comms
- Patients can be signposted to the CES by GPs and GP practice staff

Inclusion Criteria - examples of when to signpost patients to the service include:

- Transient loss of vision
- Central distortion of vision
- Ocular pain
- Differential diagnosis of red eye
- Acute allergic eye symptoms
- Non-specific irritation to the eye / dry eye (follow NWL Guidance and patient has followed lid hygiene and use of lubricants prior to signposting patient to the service)
- Foreign body and emergency contact lens removal (not by the fitting practitioner)
- Flashes/floaters, Posterior vitreous detachment
- Patient reported field defects
- Lid lesion
- Blepharitis (follow NWL Guidance and patient has followed lid hygiene and use of lubricants prior to signposting to the service)
- Retinal lesions
- Eyelash Problem / trichiasis
- Diagnosis of lumps and bumps in the vicinity of the eye
- Meibomian gland dysfunction
- Pterygium
- Recurrent erosion syndrome
- Episcleritis

The CES is NOT for:

- Patients identified with severe eye conditions which require hospital attention eg. penetrating trauma, chemical injuries, temporal arteritis

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- Patients with conditions being monitored regularly by HES /another eye care clinician eg. glaucoma, cataract or diabetic retinopathy
- Patients with minor symptoms who may be advised to self- care initially
- Patients requiring a sight test
- Patients with diplopia
- Patients under 18 years of age

GP PATIENTS CAN BE SIGNPOSTED TO THE COMMUNITY EYE SERVICE FROM

Wednesday 5th March

Pre-cataract referral assessment service

- for patients who potentially need cataract surgery, identified at sight test
- ensures only patients who need, want and are eligible for cataract surgery are referred
- includes shared decision making and patient choice discussion with patients

Glaucoma referral filtering service

- The glaucoma referral filtering pathway comprises two services which provide additional checks and assessment to avoid patients being referred to hospital unnecessarily for suspected glaucoma
- Patient is identified as suitable for the Service at sight test

Queries, questions & feedback about services?

Please email Primary Eyecare Services. The email address is: hello@referral.support