



NEE GRRS Service Guidelines and Protocols

Commencement Date 1st April 2016, Service Guidelines and Protocols reviewed May 2025

Routes of Referral:

- You can self-refer
- You can accept a referral from another Optom in the practice
- You can accept a referral from an Optom in another practice
- You can accept a referral from a GP
- You can accept a referral back from the hospital

Service Requirements:

- Service only available for patients whose GP practice is located in the North East Essex CCG.
- Provision of referral refinement for patients who are identified as having IOP ≥ 24 mmHg by non-contact or contact tonometry during a standard GOS or private sight test

Excluded are:

- Children under 18
- Any patient who meets the criteria for referral under the 2 week urgent referral pathway eg referred IOPs > 35 mmHg or suspect angle closure.
- If there are other signs of glaucoma at referral such as ONH anomalies
- If there is concurrent pathology
- The patient's GP practice is located outside of the North East Essex CCG

Requirements if a referral from elsewhere is received:

- All patients should be contacted for an appointment within three working days where possible
- All patients offered an appointment within 14 working days where possible
- All patients are to be made aware that they are required to attend an appointment within 6 weeks

Requirements if a referral from your own practice:

- All patients should be contacted for an appointment within three working days where possible
- All patients offered an appointment within 14 working days where possible
- All patients are to be made aware that they are required to attend an appointment within 6 weeks

Equipment

Essential:

- Goldman or Perkins Applanation Tonometer
- Field analyser capable of a suprathreshold programme and producing a printed report
- Equipment suitable for assessing C/D ratio
- Appropriate ophthalmic drugs (Anaesthetic, staining agents)
- Access to the internet on your business premises

**Optional:**

- Appropriate ophthalmic drugs (Mydriatic)
- Slit lamp with Fundus viewing lens
- Retinal camera or other recordable image capture equipment

Required Tests:

- Intra-ocular pressure measurement by applanation tonometry (GAT or Perkins)
- Visual fields measurement using a supra threshold programme (except where patient is unable to participate in a test)
- Optic disc measurement recording a CD Ratio

Optional Observations:

- Disc examination including dilation (Recommended)
- Linear size of ONH
- Optic nerve head observations – ISNT rule, haems etc
- Recordable retinal or ONH image

Outcomes:

1. The results are within normal limits = Patient can be discharged.
2. Visual fields suggesting glaucomatous changes, with or without raised pressure = Refer patient to secondary care.
3. IOP greater or equal to 24mmHg for patient. Refer patient to secondary care.
4. IOP is confirmed as 35mmHg or more.
5. There are signs of Acute Angle Closure Glaucoma.

Urgent Referral Guidelines:

- IOP is confirmed as 35mmHg or more
- There are signs of Acute Angle Closure Glaucoma

The patient must be referred directly and immediately to the Colchester Hospital Eye Casualty.

During clinic hours ring the Eye Emergency Clinic on 01206 746066 option 6 and discuss the case with the nurse. Email referral if necessary to esneft.eyereferurgent@nhs.net using NHS Mail. For out of hours, phone Colchester General Hospital switchboard 01206 747474 and ask for Ophthalmologist on call. If no contact made with eye department, send the patient with a letter to Colchester A & E.



Literature to be supplied

For patients discharged:

- Patients not requiring onward referral to HES should be discharged with a copy of the discharge advice leaflet. A letter detailing the test outcomes and any other supporting advice should be sent to the GP within seven days of the appointment.

For patients who are referred:

- A letter detailing the test findings and any other supporting advice will be sent automatically to the GP by the Opera IT system, stating that the patient has already been onward referred to Ophthalmology.
- The referral letter should be sent to Hospital via the Opera platform automatically. Patients/carers should be offered a choice of provider if they are to be referred to secondary care. Here, it is Colchester Hospital, although you may get patients with a preference for another HES or a private referral.
- A copy of this referral should be given to the patient/carer.

All Patients:

- Should be given the Patient Information leaflet, which discusses why the tests were done and what is glaucoma.
- Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire are an essential request of the patients. Ask patients to accept the form by text or email and encouraged them to complete it. The form can be sent to the practice email address for the patient to complete before they leave the practice.

Fees:

- Fee for performing this refinement: £46.
- There is no repeat fields fee.
- There is no follow up fee for further monitoring.
- The fee claiming process is done automatically via the OPERA IT system

OPERA IT system:

This IT system is also used to report the results to Commissioners via the Clinical Lead.

Once you have seen your patient, you will need to complete the OPERA IT system. Certain data is a requirement for this service and you will not be able to sign off the episode without completing all the necessary boxes

Once all data has been entered, you will be able to sign off your patient

Payment claims will be made automatically on your behalf on the 10th working day of the month following the sign off date