



There has been a long-term wish to develop better electronic communication between optometric practices in BNSSG and Bristol Eye Hospital (BEH) to facilitate shared care working. NHSX funds became available in 2021 for electronic solutions to the interface between the hospital eye service and community optometric practices. BNSSG CCG put in a bid, and this was awarded to the Topcon Harmony system, which has the functionality to link community optometrist practices with imaging systems in BEH. A key feature of this is the ability to have two-way imaging communication. Licences (free to practices) are available for all of the community optometry practices in BNSSG to participate in this programme if they choose to. The first phase of the project (which will be piloted first with up to 10 practices), is for imaging to be taken for patients with suspect glaucoma or ocular hypertension who are already under BEH. Upon successful pilot, this will be rolled out across the county. There are then huge opportunities for this to be expanded to other specialities in due course, such as medical retina, and also opens up the future possibilities of shared care decision making for those optometrists with higher qualifications.

BEH will inform individual pilot optometric practices which patients they should arrange to see (via email and the software). The practice would then organise a review (which could be performed by a technician if available), with visual acuity (formal refraction not needed), IOP (which doesn't need to be Goldman applanation, but would need some form of contact i.e iCare), visual fields (with reliability indices), and disc photos (dilated please). The patient would bring a questionnaire given by BEH that they would have already completed. These data items would then be uploaded onto Topcon Harmony, and the images would be reviewed and graded by the BEH glaucoma team, with feedback to the patient /GP and the practice with the results. Once the pilot has taken place, the plan is to roll this out more widely to all the optometric practices that wish to participate.

Contracting will be with BNSSG CCG and billing will be done automatically by the Topcon Harmony system and the CCG would then pay the optometric practice based on activity.

A slide deck with more details is available.