

## Two new referral routes to BEH – Update 29.06.2020

### A new mailbox for neuro-ophthalmology referrals from local community optometrists

[BEHNeurology@uhbw.nhs.uk](mailto:BEHNeurology@uhbw.nhs.uk)

In terms of security of patient sensitive material:

1. Messages from the mailbox ([uhbw.nhs.uk](mailto:uhbw.nhs.uk)) to [nhs.net](mailto:nhs.net) addresses are secure
2. Messages from [nhs.net](mailto:nhs.net) addresses to this Mailbox ([uhbw.nhs.uk](mailto:uhbw.nhs.uk)) are secure

This means that optometrists with a [@nhs.net](mailto:nhs.net) email account can send messages to the mailbox securely.

Dr Denize Atan, Lead of the Neuro-ophthalmology service at Bristol Eye Hospital.

## FAST TRACK WET AMD REFERRALS

CoViD19 restrictions have dramatically reduced the number of referrals into the fast track wet-AMD service. Patients who are most at risk of sight loss from wet-AMD are also those at high risk from a COVID 19 infection. Therefore, local optometrist's offering teleconsultation, providing a safe local environment for them to have a visual assessment and optical coherence tomography (OCT) will help ease their anxiety and ensure patients receive the correct care and treatment with minimum CoViD19 risk.

At the Eye Hospital we have dramatically changed our working practise to ensure patient safety and would like to reassure patients that we are able to see wet-AMD patients and reduce their risk of CoViD19 infection.

### Wet- AMD Referrals:

Patient presents complaining of sudden onset of distortion/scotoma/sudden drop in visual acuity with examination showing macular haemorrhage and/or intra-retinal or sub-retinal fluid, pigment epithelium detachment and best corrected visual acuity better than 6/96. They may be suitable for anti-vascular endothelium growth factor (Anti-VEGF) treatment, so please refer and **include OCT scans where available.**

### Referrals to the fast track wet AMD clinic can either be received by:

EMAIL: [ubh-tr.amdbeh@nhs.net](mailto:ubh-tr.amdbeh@nhs.net) (via a secure nhs.net email account).

I have been assured that optometrists can now obtain nhs.net email accounts. The Primary Care Commissioning Manager South West North, Melissa Kendall-Milnes, states that in order to get an nhs.net email you need to complete the application form which can be downloaded from:

<https://support.nhs.net/knowledge-base/registering-optometrists/>

and complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit:

<https://www.dsptoolkit.nhs.uk>

Useful link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/regional-area-teams/>

Any queries about this process please email: [england.bgs-w-optom@nhs.net](mailto:england.bgs-w-optom@nhs.net)

Fax: 0117 342 3402 (We would prefer referrals to be made electronically with an OCT attached, but if this is not possible the fax machine is still operating)

I hope you can appreciate the necessity for improving this clinical service and as we work closer together we can consider other clinical areas that would benefit from collaboration.

Ben Phipps Medical Retina Service Lead Optometrist