Ophthalmology Referrals

EeRS Adoption Payment

<u>Ophthalmology Referrals - EeRS Adoption Payment</u>

As part of the EeRS development project, a pilot is underway in North Central London to encourage improved quality and volume of optometric electronic referral to Hospital Eyecare Services. This will be achieved through an electronic referral adoption incentive payment to ensure that appropriate clinical information gathered by Optometrists is transcribed and / or attached to the referral. This includes standard patient data, and **relevant clinical images / scans, and abnormal field plots** in line with College of Optometry guidelines : https://guidance.college-optometrists.org/guidance-contents/communication-partnership-and-teamwork-domain/working-with-colleagues/referrals/

The benefits of sending electronic referrals include minimised rejections from the recipient, but more importantly, direct safe and appropriate triage to the most appropriate clinician, which in turn reduces time to care, delays and wasted resources.

The College of Optometrists' guidance on referrals (section C202) advises "You should write a clearly worded referral and include:
- 1. <u>Relevant details</u> from the eye examination.
- 2. The <u>reason for referral</u>, including images where appropriate.
- 3. <u>Details of discussions</u> with the patient and any with the practitioner to whom you are referring.
- 4. <u>The level of urgency</u>"

Speciality-specific detail around patient history, symptoms (e.g. duration of floaters in a vitreoretinal patient) and <u>relevant diagnostics</u> such as Fields plots, Retinal images and OCT is encouraged.

We look forward to working with you to make the best use of existing resources and clinical data in your practice to optimise the quality of ophthalmic referrals for the benefit of our patients.