

**FOR ACTION & INFORMATION  
TO: ALL OPTOMETRY PRACTICES**

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Dear GOS Contractor / Principal Optometrist

**FOR ACTION: OPHTHALMOLOGY REFERRALS -  
ADVICE ON REFERRAL LOCATION**

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust have noted that some Optometrists in the Western and Northern areas are referring patients to the Macular Service in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. These referrals are being sent via paper and also via CCG.

Optometrists working the Western and Northern areas are reminded that Ophthalmology Services in these areas are provided by the Western Health and Social Care Trust and that if your patient lives within the catchment area services by Western Trust Ophthalmology you should refer your patient to this Trust and **NOT** to Belfast Trust. Only in instances where you patient advises that he/she cannot attend the macular clinics which the Western Trust provide (Altnagelvin Hospital and Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh), should you consider referral to Belfast Trust. In this situation you must state clearly in your referral the reason why you are referring to Belfast Trust service.

**FOR PRACTICES USING eREFERRAL VIA CCG:**

Referral Options are hosted on CCG in the following locations; please see the screenshots below of the LIVE CCG which demonstrate the locations of the current Macular Service Referral Options. **The Western Health and Social Care Trust manage receipt and the triage of macular service referrals for all these referral locations and will allocate an appointment to the most appropriate clinic.**

1. Western Health and Social Care Trust

- i. Altnagelvin Area Hospital
- ii. Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex
- iii. Roe Valley Hospital
- iv. South West Acute Hospital

2. Northern Health and Social Care Trust

- i. Causeway Hospital
- ii. Mid Ulster Hospital

My Favourites:

(Select favourite) ▼

Send to:

Western Health and Social Care Trust ▼

Western Health and Social Care Trust Non-GP Locations/Providers: ▼

Protocol:

(Please select)

Altnagelvin Hospital  
Community Services  
Community Specialist Palliative Care Services  
Omagh Hospital & PCC  
Roe Valley Hospital  
South West Acute Hospital  
Specialist Palliative Care Unit/Hospices  
Tyrone County Hospital

MACULAR  
REFERRAL  
OPTIONS  
AVAILABLE AT  
THESE 4  
LOCATIONS

My Favourites:

(Select favourite) ▼

Send to:

Northern Health and Social Care Trust ▼

Northern Health and Social Care Trust Non-GP Locations/Provider: ▼

Protocol:

(Please select)

Antrim Area Hospital  
Causeway Hospital  
Childrens Services  
Community Specialist Palliative Care Services  
DESMOND  
Emotional Wellbeing Hub  
Learning Disability - Psychiatry  
Mental Health - Adult (Under 65)  
Mental Health - Community Addictions  
Mental Health - Older People (65+)  
Mid Ulster Hospital  
Northern Trust Community Services  
Specialist Palliative Care Unit/Hospices

MACULAR  
REFERRAL  
OPTIONS  
AVAILABLE AT  
THESE 2  
LOCATIONS

## FOR PRACTICES USING PAPER REFERRALS

Practices that are not using the direct referral system of electronic referral via CCG and who are using paper referrals should use the Macular Service Rapid Access Referral form if they are referring a patient to the Macular Service. This referral form is available to download (or to complete on screen) and then print, at the following link:

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2485.htm>

**Recent review of some ophthalmology referrals to the Western Trust has evidenced that some referrals for Retinal Vein Occlusion are being sent to General Ophthalmology.**

**You are reminded that the Macular Service Rapid Access clinic currently accepts referrals for:**

- 1. Suspect Wet Macular Degeneration (wAMD)**
- 2. Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO)**
- 3. Diabetic Macular Oedema (DMO)**

**Information on this and the current Macular Service Rapid Access Referral form was provided to you in the June 2016 HSCB Optometry Newsletter. Please ensure that you use the current Macular Service Rapid Access Referral form for the above conditions and complete the form providing all the required clinical information. This will assist the hospital eye service in triage and management of the referral.**

**All other 'medical-retina' referrals should be sent to General Ophthalmology noting that a 'medical-retina' opinion and assessment is required.**

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DISSEMINATE THIS INFORMATION TO ALL OPTOMETRISTS WORKING IN YOUR PRACTICE  
(including Full Time, Part Time and Locum Optometrists)**

If you have any queries in relation to this please contact any one of the HSCB optometric clinical advisers who will assist in answering your query

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Kind regards

Ophthalmic Services

Directorate of Integrated Care, Health and Social Care Board