

Advice on referral process and pathway for Orthoptic Services

Orthoptists investigate, diagnose and treat disorders of binocular single vision (e.g. squints and problems relating to amblyopia in children).

Please note the following in respect of patients presenting with diplopia.

- **Patients with Diplopia should be referred to Ophthalmology (i.e. to General Ophthalmology)**
- **Patients with Sudden Onset Diplopia should be referred to Eye Casualty**

When referring patients with diplopia to Ophthalmology/Eye Casualty, please ensure you follow usual referral processes for those services.

Guidance for Referrals to the HSC Orthoptic Service(s)

Orthoptic Clinic contact details and guidance on referral process & pathways are hosted on the following webpage:

<https://hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2699.htm>. Referrals to the Orthoptic Service (both those sent via CCG eReferral and those sent via paper) will be triaged by a qualified Orthoptist and allocated an appointment.

- Where a HSC Trust has a process in place to accept eReferral via CCG to Orthoptic service* (**currently Northern, Southern and Western Trusts*) please send the referral via the CCG system. Please note the options for an adult referral and paediatric referral.
- Where a HSC Trust utilises a process for paper referrals to Orthoptic Services, please use the OP/OR1 referral form for paediatric patient referrals and the GOS 18 referral for adult patient referrals. Paper referral form templates are hosted on the following webpage:
<https://hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2485.htm>

With all referrals, please include full clinical information and any additional details as highlighted below in the referral:

1. Where known (via NIECR or other source) details of any previous eye treatment
2. Whether the patient has any specific or special needs