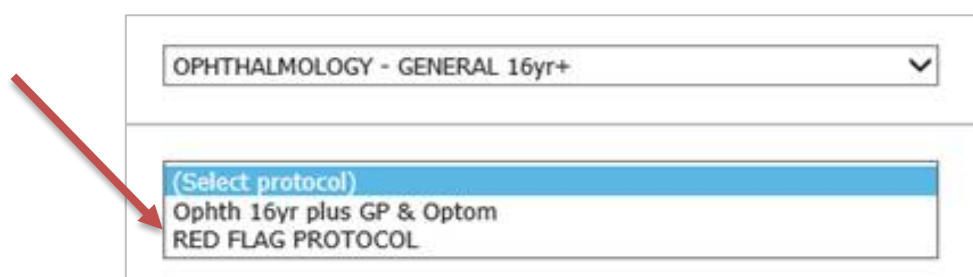


## IMPORTANT UPDATE TO CCG REFERRAL PROTOCOLS – RED FLAG REFERRALS TO OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dear Ophthalmic Contractor,

Please note the following important points in regard to recent update to the CCG system and referrals to Ophthalmology destinations. From November 2024 the CCG system now lists a new referral protocol for two of the Ophthalmology destinations (General Ophthalmology 16yrs + and Paediatric Ophthalmology). The protocol is called “**Red Flag Protocol**” as shown in the screenshot below.



1. Please note that the a “Red Flag” protocol should **ONLY** be completed for a referral where the optometrist **suspects** that the patient has a **cancer** of the eye or ocular adnexal area which requires assessment by the hospital eye service.
2. The “Red Flag” protocols should **NOT** be used for any other type of referral, urgent or otherwise; it should only be used instances where cancer is suspected.

Optometrists are asked to ensure that they utilise all relevant professional and clinical resources to help in their assessment and differential diagnosis of a condition of suspected cancer of the eye/adnexa, to ensure that the “Red Flag” referral pathway is utilised appropriately.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS SHARED WITH ALL  
OPTOMETRISTS WORKING IN YOUR PRACTICE – FULL-TIME, PART-TIME &  
LOCUM.**

Queries in respect of this guidance should be directed to  
[ophthalmic.services@hscni.net](mailto:ophthalmic.services@hscni.net) in the first instance.