

Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB Easy Eyecare Pathway For Patients With Learning Disabilities And / Or autism (PwLD)

Accreditation: Optometrist with WOPEC PwLD

The service should be available to anyone who is recognised by their GP as having a mild, moderate or severe learning disability who are on a local learning disability register.

The patient must be registered with a GP practice in the Lancashire and South Cumbria area, or be a Lancashire & South Cumbria resident and not registered with a GP anywhere. The service is to be provided by accredited optometrists or Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners in a community setting.

Patients may enter the pathway via several routes. They may be referred by their GP via their Annual Health Check (AHC), or by learning disability services, a carer or advocate, optometrist or OMP, Orthoptists, community eye clinics and school eye clinics. Alternatively, they may self-refer. GPs will have a list of accredited practitioners. The relevant forms will be hosted on a website by NHS England and NHS Improvement (North West).

Patients who need the additional support in this Pathway should be able to choose from a list of practices and practitioners accredited to provide this service, including domiciliary providers. As far as possible eye tests should be done in practices and domiciliary services should only be used where appropriate. Copies of the list will be hosted on a website by NHS England and NHS Improvement (North West).

The service should be available to anyone who is recognised by their GP as having a mild, moderate or severe learning disability or who has been registered on a local learning disability register.

Learning disability is defined by:

- a significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence), with
- a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning)
- which started before adulthood (under the age of 18), with a lasting effect on development.

If a GOS contractor engaged in the service is unsure of a patient's eligibility they may wish to confirm this with the patients GP, or where available in the future check the patients Summary Care or Patient Record.

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Clinicians engaged in this service must ensure that the patient has provided consent to receive this service and that the outcome will be shared with the patients GP. Where a patient is not able to provide consent, they may still be receive the service if it is deemed in their best interest under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

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The accredited practitioner is expected to carry out the following:

When patient or carer contacts the Practice to book an appointment, the accredited practitioner must consider and put in place any support and preparation required by the patient prior to the appointment. This will include issuing the SeeAbility form "Telling the optometrist about me" and may require the following:

- a) When needed encourage the patient to visit the premises prior to the appointment so that they are more familiar, comfortable and confident in the practice environment.
- b) To determine the patient's method of communication and support this in line with the Accessible Information Standard.
- c) If necessary, the patient may require familiarisation with examination techniques and consideration should be given to the need for a Functional Vision Assessment.

The Practice should take a contact number for the patient and a carer who can be contacted if necessary

- Conduct a full eye examination in accordance with College of Optometrists Guidance on "Examining Adults with Learning disabilities and autism." This will require adapting techniques, extending appointment times and using alternative methods for assessing the patient as necessary.
- If the patient requires spectacles, full support will be provided for the provision of appropriate spectacles.
- The outcome of the examination should be recorded in the Record Card and SeeAbility's post-test "Feedback from the optometrist about my Eye Test" must be completed and copies given to the patient. (and/or their carer)

If a patient fails to attend the appointment it is the responsibility of the participating practice to contact the patient and arrange another appointment. The practice should aim to make contact with any carer the patient nominated when the appointment was made.

Participating practices should supply the patient with the following leaflets

Before the eye examination:

- Telling the optometrist about me form.
- After the eye examination in general and for those with correctable refractive error:
- Feedback from the optometrist about my eye test
- Direct to SeeAbility's easy read factsheets on choosing the right glasses, looking after your glasses, getting used to your new glasses and wearing glasses.
- Details of other local support services

Time frames

Once the patient or carer contacts the sub-contracting practice for an eye examination an appointment is offered within 28 days.

Outcomes

Ensure patients or carer are fully informed regarding the outcome of their examination.

Provide follow up appointments and support if necessary

Provide and collect data on patient satisfaction.

Participating practices are not required to have any specific equipment, but the following should be considered: Suitable equipment will be available e.g. Kay Pictures, Cardiff Cards, Sheridan Gardiner, attention grabbers (toys)

Fee

Fee to practice £60.00. In addition to this fee a GOS sight test may also be claimed for eligible patients along with issuance of a GOS3 voucher where eligible and appropriate to do so.