Dear Colleagues,

Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge (BHR) CCGs implemented a Prior Approval scheme on 21 March which includes referrals for Cataract Surgery. We’ve received a number of queries from optician colleagues across BHR, so we are happy to update/clarify the process for the Prior Approval process for Cataract Surgery.

The newly introduced Tick Box Form for cataract surgery prior approval (attached) does not replace the GOS18 form so opticians are still asked to please complete the GOS18 form as part of your referral. For patients from Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge CCGs areas, when it’s been determined that a patient meets the relevant POLCE criteria (attached), please complete both the GOS18 AND the Tick Box Form and send to the patient’s GP so that the GP can seek prior approval.

In Havering, a community ophthalmology service operates from Westland practice which allows direct referral from opticians as a one stop model service working in conjunction with BHRUT teams. Opticians in Havering can still refer directly to this service by completing the GOS 18 form as usual. The Westland practice service will then assess the patient and will complete the Tick Box Form and secure prior approval by referring the patient to the CSU Prior Approval service via [nhs.net](http://nhs.net/) email account.

If you have any queries about the Havering service please contact Debbie Sampayo at Westland via email: [eyeclinic@westlandmedical.com](mailto:eyeclinic@westlandmedical.com).

Please find attached the relevant POLCE criteria for cataract surgery and the Tick Box Form. If you have any further queries, please pass them through to Gulsen Gungor at the CCGs via email to: [g.gungor@nhs.net](mailto:g.gungor@nhs.net)

Many thanks

Gulsen Gungor, BHR CCGs