

Tuesday 14 March 2017

Dear colleague

We are writing to you regarding a forthcoming change in the process for those patients requiring referral to their GP for onward cataract investigation/treatment. The changes come into practice this week.

The three clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge are about to introduce a prior approvals process for a number of procedures, including cataracts. Hospital consultants are aware of the changes having received a contract notice last month.

The new process from **Tuesday 21 March 207** will be:

1. Optician refers patient to their GP advising the need for cataract surgery
2. As part of the referral you must provide the GP with a fully **completed** tick box form (as attached) as part of your usual referral letter. Please ensure you include all required information including impact on **lifestyle information** e.g. driving. This will reduce further delay and the need for the GP to contact the patient for any missing information.
3. GP then sends the referral form to the prior approvals service for admin check only (N.B. this is **NOT** for a clinical second opinion)
4. If approved, the GP refers the patient into secondary care. If not approved, the GP will communicate the decision to the patient.

We expect this additional administrative approvals step to help support both local opticians and GPs to reduce the number of inappropriate cataract referrals.

Please find attached the new tick box form and the relevant policy extract covering cataracts as a procedure of limited clinical effectiveness (POLCE).

If you have any queries about this new process please contact Gulsen Gungor at: [Gulsen.Gungor@nelcsu.nhs.uk](mailto:Gulsen.Gungor@nelcsu.nhs.uk)

Regards

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| Barking and Dagenham CCG | Havering CCG | Redbridge CCG |

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