

**FOR ACTION & INFORMATION
TO: ALL OPTOMETRY PRACTICES**

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August 2017

Dear Optometrist

IMPORTANT REFERRAL PATHWAY INFORMATION
Electronic Referrals via CCG to Ophthalmology:
Change of Naming of Referral Protocols

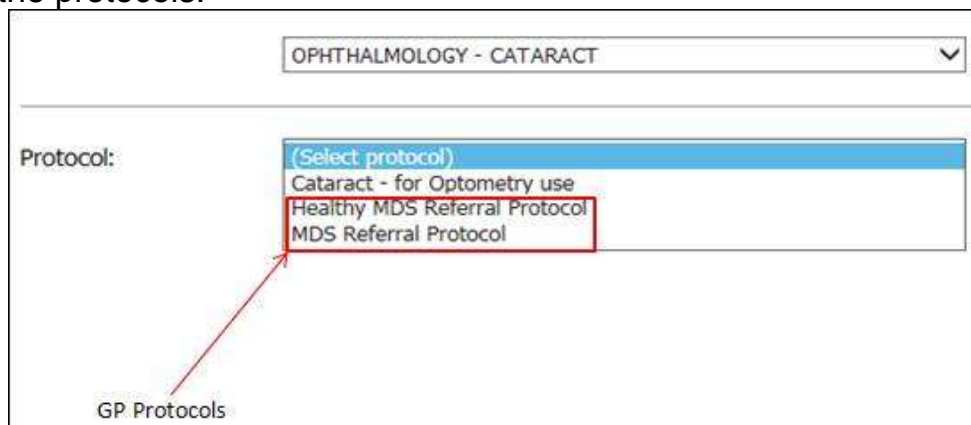
From 25th August 2017 two changes will come into effect in relation to Ophthalmology referrals on CCG.

1. Changes to the naming of Ophthalmology referral protocols

Changes will be made to the names of the current protocols visible to both Optometrists and GPs who use CCG to refer patients to eye services in secondary care. The change is to ensure minimum confusion for all users of CCG and to enable better differentiation between what is an optometry referral protocol and a GP referral protocol. Currently optometrists use a bespoke CCG protocol with tabs and data fields which only optometrist would complete. GPs use MDS and Healthy MDS protocols.

- GPs **will continue to access** and use the MDS and Healthy MDS protocols.
- Optometrists will now see protocols for each referral sub-speciality which reference the term “for Optometry use” e.g. Cataract – for Optometry Use; General – for Optometry Use, Macular – for Optometry Use. **The content and lay out of the protocols for Optometry use are unchanged.**

The screenshot below provides an example of the changes which will be made to the naming of the protocols.

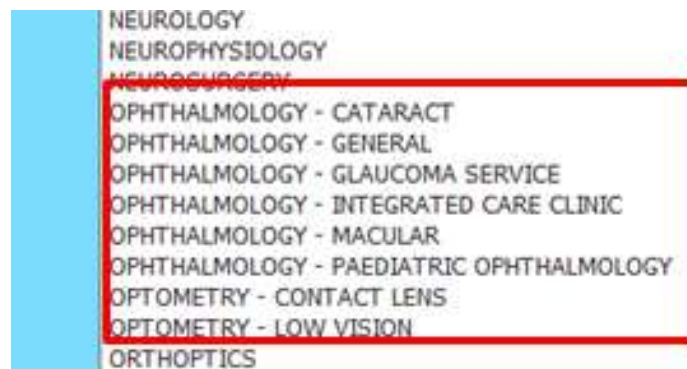


2. Changes to the naming of Contact Lens and Low Vision referral destinations and protocols.

From 25th August 2017 the current Contact Lens and Low Vision referral destination and protocols will be renamed. The referral destination will be visible on the CCG drop down list as:

- Optometry – Contact Lens
- Optometry – Low Vision

The screenshot below demonstrates this change in the destination name



Please note that for these referral destinations as with other ophthalmic destinations:

- GPs **will continue to access** and use the MDS and Healthy MDS protocols
- Optometry protocols for these destinations will be named
 - Contact Lens – for Optometry Use
 - Low Vision – for Optometry Use

Please ensure that you disseminate this guidance and information to all optometrists working in your practice; full-time, part-time and locum

If you have any queries in relation to this guidance and advice please contact any one of the HSCB Optometric Clinical Advisers via email @: janice.mccrudden@hscni.net | fiona.north@hscni.net | margaret.mcmullan@hscni.net

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Ophthalmic Services & General Medical Services

Directorate of Integrated Care, Health and Social Care Board