

Pharmacy / Prescribing Department
NHS Lanarkshire Headquarters
Kirklands
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**TO ALL COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN NHS
LANARKSHIRE**

Date 9th Oct 2014
Our Ref GL/GL

**TO ALL OPTOMETRIES IN NHS
LANARKSHIRE**

Enquiries to Mr G Lindsay
Direct Line 01698 858315
Secure/Direct Fax 01698 858271

**PLEASE SHARE WITH LOCUMS AND
SUPPORT STAFF AS APPROPRIATE**

Dear Colleague,

OPTOMETRY – PHARMACY INTRA REFERRALS

The Minor Ailments Service (MAS) available from community pharmacies is now well established. It enables a consultation and, if appropriate, a supply of medicines free of charge as an NHS service and it is available to the following categories of patients:

- Patients must be registered with a GP practice in Scotland
- Patients aged 60 years or over
- Patients under 16 years
- 16-18 year olds in full time education
- Patients with medical or maternity exemption certificates
- Patients with an income related exemption
- Patients must not be resident in a nursing or residential home

Of late, Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) and Optometry Scotland (OS) have agreed a referral tool between the professions which helps both professions work together. A copy of that referral form is attached and is also available on our website.

http://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs_boards/NHS_Lanarkshire/formulary.html

Basically it facilitates:

- Optometrists referring patients to a community pharmacy for a MAS consultation and supply of eye medication
- It recognises that sometimes the optometrist will be likely to recommend a specific product and while we are aware that this is different from the normal set up of a MAS consultation, the concept has been agreed by CPS and OS.
- We still promote the concept that most MAS prescribing should come from the MAS formulary, but are also conscious that the specialist recommendations from the Optometrists may be outwith that Formulary. However, the NHS Lanarkshire Joint Formulary should still fulfill the vast majority of patient need.
- A copy of both formularies can be accessed via

http://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs_boards/NHS_Lanarkshire/formulary.html

and we anticipate that an updated version of the MAS formulary will become available in early Nov 2014

- It also facilitates referral from Community Pharmacists to Optometrists, most of whom have undertaken additional training to provide treatments covered by PGDs (including POM treatments) for acute eye conditions under the Lanarkshire Eyehealth Network Service (LENS).

<http://www.nhslanarkshire.org.uk/services/LENS/Pages/default.aspx>

- An important practical point to note is that Community Optometrists do not always open every day or have an Optometrist present and available to provide care under the LENS service at all times. On occasion it may be necessary for the patient to travel to a neighbouring town to attend a LENS Optometrist.
- It is therefore very valuable for the local Pharmacist and Optometrist to have a discussion to make sure they understand each other's practice and the best way to use the referral form.

We hope this will help local Pharmacists and Optometrists to refer patients to each other as appropriate.

Yours sincerely

**GEORGE LINDSAY
CHIEF PHARMACIST
PRIMARY CARE**

**JULIA HUNTER
OPTOMETRIC ADVISER**

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