**DAILY UPDATE 06/05/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

**COMMUNITY OPTOMETRY SERVICE DURING COVID-19**

The following arrangements are in place across NHSGGC:

* The majority of community optometry practices are available to triage and assess patients. This is on a telephone first basis, not for walk-ins;
* Community optometrists have been advised not to see patients face to face except for emergency dispensing of spectacles and therefore this assessment will be by telephone or video consultation in the first instance;
* A full list of practices in NHSGGC and their current availability is available [here](https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/media/259977/covid19_optitcians_practices_list.pdf) and is updated weekly;
* Where optometry practices are not open for triage and assessment, they have been asked to redirect patients to a nearby community optometrist (not to their GP);
* Following assessment, where patients require medication, community optometrists may:
  + Prescribe directly where there is an Independent Prescriber (IP) in the practice;
* Refer the patient on to another community optometry practice which has an IP optometrist;
* Request dispensing from community pharmacy under the Minor Ailments Scheme (MAS) and appropriate PGDs (see attached form);
* Request that the GP prescribes a particular medication, using the existing forms and process;
* Where a patient requires an urgent face to face assessment, the optometrist can refer on for further advice or appointment through the Acute Referral Centres at Gartnavel, RAH (Paisley) and Inverclyde.

Community pharmacies can therefore continue to signpost patients to their community optometrist, on the understanding that this is for telephone triage and assessment in the first instance.

Can I please remind you of the change in MAS access availability i.e. it is now available to everyone as per the PCA which was circulated to community pharmacies at the end of March. You can access a copy of the PCA via the link [NHS Circular: PCA (P)(2020) 5](https://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/media/2410/circular-pca-p-2020-5-extension-of-mas-22032020.docx). It appears that we have some pharmacies who may not have seen this directive and have tried to charge patients for accessing the service.

A copy of the Optom Referral Form is attached, again in case you missed the previous circulation of the document.

Kind Regards,

Alan Harrison

**Lead Pharmacist for Community Care**

**PHARMACY – OPTOMETRY REFERRAL/REQUEST FORM**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Patient Name and Address** | **Referring Pharmacy Stamp**  **Contact Name .................................**  **Tel No .............................................** |
| **Patient Telephone Number** | **GP Details** |
| **CHI Number (if known)** | **MAS Eligible Evidence Seen**  **Yes/No Yes/No** |
| **Presenting Signs/Symptoms/Duration** | |
| **Optometry Report** | |
| **Medicine Required**  **Hypromellose 0.3% Eye Drop 10ml Clinitas Carbomer Gel 10g**  **Lacri-Lube 3.5g Chloramphenicol 0.5% Eye Drops 10ml**  **Chloramphenicol 1% Eye Ointment 4g**  **Sodium Chromoglicate 2% Eye drops 13.5ml**  **DURATION** | |
| **Optometrist Name**  **GOC No** | **Optometrist Stamp** |
| **Optometrist Signature** | **Date** |

(Recommend retain for seven years)