

Optometry Glaucoma Monitoring: Ashton, Leigh and Wigan

A Case Study of NHS Glaucoma Monitoring Services in Ashton, Leigh and Wigan



Overview

A community-based optometry protocol-led glaucoma monitoring service delivered from multiple primary care practices across Ashton, Leigh and Wigan (ALW). Clinically stable, low-risk patients are transferred from Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust into accredited optometry practice with a defined management plan.

Patients are stratified using GLAUC-STRAT-FAST and discharged with baseline clinical data and clear follow-up instructions.

In 2025, 81% of patients were safely managed by primary care optometrists with 16.7% returned to the hospital service (including 14.3% for glaucoma progression). Patient satisfaction was high, with 100% of respondents recommending the service to friends and family.



Read the full case study [here](#).

Key Elements of the Service

Workforce Model

- Delivered from multiple high street optometry practices by accredited optometrists holding a Professional Certificate in Glaucoma or Manchester Royal Eye Hospital equivalent qualification.
- Greater Manchester ICB invested in Professional Certificate in Glaucoma training for 47 practitioners to upskill the local workforce.
- Glaucoma-specific CPD delivered virtually, with in-person events supported by the Greater Manchester Optometry Excellence Programme.

Clinical Protocols

- All assessments are conducted in line with the patient's management plan and locally agreed service specification.
- Required testing includes Goldmann tonometry, full-threshold visual fields (not limited to 24-2), OCT imaging and optic nerve head assessment.
- The optometrist monitors the patient against the agreed management plan and determines stability, recall interval or escalation.

Data Handling and Clinical Review

- Referrals and follow-up managed through a digital IT platform.
- All diagnostic data, OCT images and visual fields uploaded for governance oversight.
- Built-in failsafe systems identify DNAs and overdue reviews.
- Escalated cases reviewed by HES, with clear, urgent and routine pathways in place.
- Clinical records available for audit and quality assurance.