

Optometry Glaucoma Monitoring: Newcastle

A Case Study of NHS Glaucoma Monitoring Services in Newcastle



Overview

A community-based optometry protocol-led glaucoma monitoring service delivered from multiple optometry practices in the catchment of Newcastle upon Tyne Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (NuTH). Patients stratified as low risk using GLAU-STRAT-FAST are transferred with a management plan to the optometry service.

First year data indicates 7% discharge rates and 9% escalation to hospital for virtual review. Patients report positive experience and shorter waiting times.



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

Key Elements of the Service

Workforce Model

- Delivered from high street practices, primary care optometrists perform tests in line with the patient's management plan.
- Participating optometrists hold WOPEC Glaucoma level 2 or College of Optometrist Professional or Higher certificate in glaucoma.
- Joint clinical leadership with clinical audit and co-developed CPD.

Clinical Protocols

- All tests are carried out following the individual's management plan, in accordance with the locally agreed protocols and the hospitals standard operating procedures.
- Clinical decision making: The optometrist monitors a patients' condition against a management plan developed by a consultant ophthalmologist. The optometrist determines whether there is a change in clinical status and can discharge in line with the management plan.

Data Handling and Clinical Review

- IT system supports digital referral management, recall tracking and failsafe processes to identify patients who have not been booked, have not attended (DNA), or whose review date has exceeded the agreed target timeframe.
- Clinical data and scans for all patients are available for hospital virtual.
- Consultant virtual review of patients escalated to hospital, with a change in clinical status, and determine whether to:
 - continue to follow up in the optometry service, with refreshed management plan
 - escalate to hospital follow-up if clinically indicated.