

Optometry Glaucoma Monitoring: Norfolk and Waveney

A Case Study of NHS Glaucoma Monitoring Services in Norfolk and Waveney



Overview

A community-based optometry protocol-led glaucoma monitoring service delivered from multiple primary care practices sites within Norfolk and Waveney. Operating with joint clinical leadership across primary and secondary care, a risk stratified approach is adopted with people of lowest risk of sight loss transferred to the optometry service and those at highest risk managed within the hospital.

All clinical decisions are made under the hospital's governance framework with an audit of optometrist decision making undertaken by the hospital team. 83% of low-risk patients were fully managed in primary care.



Plans to extend the eligibility to patients on treatment and improve hospital administrative processes will increase numbers transferred to the Optometry service. Read the full case study [here](#).

Key Elements of the Service

Workforce Model

- Tests are performed in optical practice, in multiple sites in the community, by primary care teams.
- Tests are performed by the optometrist or, where appropriate, delegated to trained support staff under the supervision of the Optometrist.
- Participating optometrists hold WOPEC Glaucoma level 2 or College of Optometrist Prof Cert in Glaucoma.
- Patients identified as having a change in clinical status are referred to the hospital team for review (Consultant, glaucoma fellows and specialist optometrist).

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.

Data Handling and Clinical Review

- Data is transferred between hospital and optometry by NHS email.
- Following four years of optometry review without a change in clinical status, the hospital team review the data remotely and determine whether to:
 - discharge the patient
 - continue monitoring within the community optometry service
 - escalate to face to face follow-up in the hospital.