**Opthalmology triage service**

Dear Practice Manager,

The ophthalmology triage service contract provided by Evolutio Care Innovations Ltd in BNES is due to end very soon (possibly 30 August – final date to be agreed) and in order to provide a seamless transition to a new triage service for BaNES, BSWCCG would like to extend the Wiltshire Referral Management Centre (RMC) ophthalmology referral and triage process to BaNES GPs.

Ophthalmology referrals in Wiltshire have been subject to clerical and clinical scrutiny for over two years and a recent audit shows that the system is efficient and provides excellent clinical oversight for patient care. There is a plethora of local evidence to show a significant reduction in GP workload if community optometrists send referrals direct to the RMC instead of via the GP.

To make this happen, BaNES GP practices are asked to give permission for the RMC to hold ‘proxy rights’ so that the RMC can convert referrals from optometrists into an ERS referral.

For GP’s, proxy rights will ensure they remain key to the care of the patient and communicated with by secondary or community care services as they remain lead clinician and receive information such as clinic or discharge letters.

We therefore need confirmation that you are happy to authorise this request for the RMC to have access to the registration Authority Team responsible for granting the required access.

If you are happy to proceed with this plan then please can you arrange for your Smartcard Sponsor to:

* complete the [referral form](https://bswccg.nhs.uk/for-clinicians/primary-care-documents/primary-care-bulletin-documents/1087-gp-bulletin-24-july-doc-1/file)
* sign it
* return to scwcsu.smartcards@nhs.net **and please copy in** **wccg.rss@nhs.net** **by** **Friday 31 July** so that we can set up our staff appropriately (please make sure the email is sent from the sponsors email address).

Here is a list of useful contacts should you have any questions about this process at any time:

1. Referral Management please contact RMC Managers Wiltshire – jane.nicklinson@nhs.net or for BNES - grace.maumbe@nhs.net
2. Clinical information on ophthalmology please contact the BSW CCG Optometry Clinical Lead -  ewen.macmillan1@nhs.net
3. Governance and CCG oversight – please contact the BSW CCG Speciality Lead for Ophthalmology – Deputy Director of Commissioning - anna.field@swindonccg.nhs.uk