**BSWCCG Communication Message to Swindon locality GPs - 22/12/20**

**Message for GPs**

Dear Practice Manager

The ophthalmology triage service contract provided in Swindon is due to end on Sunday 3rd January 2021 and in order to provide a seamless transition to a new triage service for Swindon, BSWCCG would like to extend the Wiltshire Referral Management Centre (RMC) ophthalmology referral and triage process to Swindon GPs as it has done recently for in BNES GPs.

Ophthalmology referrals in Wiltshire and BNES are subject to clerical and clinical scrutiny for some time 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 enable this happen, the existing proxy rights used by Swindon RMC will be extended to the Ophthalmology team in Wiltshire to enable them to create ophthalmology referrals received from community optometrists.

For GP’s, proxy rights will ensure that the GP remains the lead clinician, central to the care of patients, and with whom secondary care and community care services communicate with,  including the receipt of patient outcome letters.

From 4th January 2021, you will be able to send all routine ophthalmology referrals via the following e-referral service:

**BSW Ophthalmology Referral Assessment Service**

Please ensure you include all relevant information, including a referral letter and recent medical history and that all referrals (including Paediatrics) should be sent through as Adult, in order to allow access by the Optom Triagers.

 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](mailto:jane.nicklinson@nhs.net)

2.       Clinical information on ophthalmology please contact the BSW CCG Optometry Clinical Lead - [ewen.macmillan1@nhs.net](mailto: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](mailto:anna.field@swindonccg.nhs.uk)