

# wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Spectacular New Year!



## Welcome to the Tees LOC December 2019 Newsletter

### FAST TRACK



For practices with NHS emails the email to send in urgent referrals to the emergency eye care is [stees.eyepdfasttrack@nhs.net](mailto:stees.eyepdfasttrack@nhs.net) and it is functional. FastTrack still have the fax machine for faxing urgent referrals to the emergency eye care at 01642 282682. We have recently updated our website to include new guidance: <http://teesloc.org.uk/referral-pathways>

It has been brought to our attention that there have been some issues with referrals getting through to the Fast Track clinic. We would ask any practices that have issues with referrals to complete the following form so we can highlight these issues with the relevant trust as soon as possible. We have created a google form to report any issues: [Tees LOC Survey](#)

### NHS EMAILS

To further aid with referrals to Fast Track and other NHS services every Primary Care Optometry practice will be receiving an NHS email. NHS England will roll out NHS.Mail accounts to all contractors in Cumbria and North East but the exact technical solution is yet to be finalised. NHS Digital are reviewing the basic requirements for the roll out NHS Digital has clear guidance they will be contacting the LOC and Contractors with clearer outlines. If you do not currently have an NHS email and wish to have one please indicate in the contact details form below.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Please let us know if any of your details have changed. If you have any new optometrists working for you please share this newsletter with them. We have a contact form below for individuals to complete if they want to receive emails directly from Tees LOC. This will be added to our website shortly. <https://forms.gle/G2s2xeojEM2QyXd7A>

### Northumberland, Tyne and Wear LOC CET event 6pm 22nd January 2020

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear LOC are pleased to invite you to our free Optometrist education event with CET points. Sunderland Eye infirmary are supporting this event that will focus on emergency referral guidance and swollen disc management. The event will take place at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. Everyone welcome! The proposed timetable for the event is as follows:

18:00-18:40 Doors open, buffet served, networking. 18:40-18:45 NTW LOC welcome

18:45-19:15 Management of swollen discs for primary care Optometrists – Wendy Adams Neuro Ophthalmology Consultant SEI

19:15 - 19:30 Hints and tips for referral letter content – Chris Steele – Lead Optometrist SEI

19:30 - 20:00 Appropriate referrals into the emergency department by Community Optometrists – Ibrahim Masri EED and VR Consultant SEI

20:00 – 20:30 – Panel Q&A

Please register for the event on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ntwlocsei-optometrist-education-event-referral-guidance-tickets-85507183287>

## Offering Private Services to NHS Patients.

We appreciate the benefit of providing certain private tests to NHS patients but we would like to remind practices that NHS Patients are not obliged to upgrade to tests above and beyond what is required to meet the standard GOS contract and we are not to malign or criticize services available on the NHS. e.g. we shouldn't tell patients that the Diabetic Eye Screening Service is not good enough for monitoring the health of the eye. We would recommend informing the patient what any advanced tests do and then letting them choose if they want to proceed with them. An example of this would be an OCT can often detect changes to the optic nerve upto 5 years sooner than a visual examination by an optometrist.

AOP Guidance:  
"Any optometrist wishing to charge a GOS patient for additional private services (e.g. fundus photos or OCT) must ensure that such services are optional and that all the elements of a sight test are carried out and documented. These are requirements of the GOS Contract and the Opticians Act 1989. For further information, read our guidance Developing Practice Beyond GOS In England."

The following guide by the AOP is a useful aid in regards to this: [GOS SIGHT TESTS – IN AND OUT](#)

## Next Committee Meeting

Our next meeting will be at 7pm on Tues 14th Jan 2020 at Low Vision Supplies, 176 Belasis Avenue, Billingham, TS23 1EY. We are actively looking for people to be involved with the Tees LOC, especially for Clinical Lead rolls for Low Vision, Cataract, Children Services, Glaucoma and MECS. If you would like to help we would love to see you at our next meeting.

## Meet the Team

Julie Breen Chair	Iain Mellis Secretary	Emma Roberts Treasurer	Liz Hearn Vice Chair / DPO lead
Zoe Richmond Service Development	Nina Hodgkiss PES liaison	Nick Holford Website Officer	Andrew Higginson Communications Officer

## How to get involved

If you are interested in helping out with your local optical committee please give your secretary an email at [secretary@teesloc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@teesloc.org.uk) to let them know. Our three monthly meetings are open to observers and we will happily welcome you. Our next meetings are shown below:

### Dates for your Diaries

**Proposed Meeting Dates for the next 12 months:**  
**Please add these dates to your diaries today.**  
Tues 14th Jan 2020, Tues 21st April 2020, Tues 14th July 2020

**Proposed AGM date:**  
**Please add this to your diaries today.**  
We plan to have the AGM on 19th May 2020  
6pm start  
Venue to be confirmed

These are held at 7pm at Low Vision Supplies, 176 Belasis Avenue, Billingham, TS23 1EY unless announced otherwise.

## Did you know...

...we are on social media? Please, follow us on facebook [fb.me/teesloc.org.uk](https://fb.me/teesloc.org.uk) and twitter [@teesloc](https://twitter.com/teesloc). We look forward to your likes and tweets!

Yours sincerely

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Iain Mellis  
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