

New Service Briefing for GPs'

A mobile service for monitoring stable Glaucoma

What is it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A new community based mobile unit providing “one stop shop” monitoring service for patients with stable low risk glaucoma in Ipswich and East Suffolk. ▪ Over 120 patients a month in the CCG are diagnosed with glaucoma, which is a constant pressure on hospital services. Future impact on local services is likely to increase with the ageing population and revised NICE guidelines - therefore this unit adds capacity and makes it more convenient for patients.
The provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The service will be provided by Newmedica which was formed by Jeremy Diamond, a consultant Glaucoma specialist, at Bristol University Hospital. ▪ The mobile unit will be branded NHS Community Glaucoma service, Ipswich and East Suffolk commissioning group.
How it will work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patients meeting the criteria of stable glaucoma in the IHTI clinic (and having no other eye conditions) will be discharged into the new service. Patients will be fully briefed on the mobile service at this point, both face to face with the hospital clinician, and by letter. ▪ Initially the service will commence from IHT with the unit situated on site, allowing patients to familiarise themselves with the new clinic and to allow Newmedica to forward plan the clinic locations. ▪ The mobile service will operate from four proposed locations - probably Ipswich, Stowmarket, Woodbridge and Saxmundham. ▪ Patients will be given one hour appointments. The service will use a multidisciplinary team to ensure all NICE investigations are covered in a single visit. ▪ All results will be stored on software which allows results and pictures, along with previous ones, to be reviewed by a remote glaucoma specialist. The specialist will decide which group the glaucoma falls into and the subsequent follow-up interval e.g. 6 months or 12 months. ▪ If the glaucoma is unstable, the patient will be referred back into the acute service within IHT – this will be done by Newmedica. IHT will be sent a full report including all results and photos. ▪ An information letter will be sent by post to the patient and their GP with all the clinical information including; corrected and uncorrected VA,IOP, disc cup ratios, ocular medications(oral and topical) and suggested changes to medications (some patients may require prescription eye drops) – this will be issued within 5 days of the external review taking place
Referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Referrals to the mobile service are only from IHT Ophthalmology Department. It is a follow-up service only.
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A letter will be sent to the patient and their GP after each appointment, informing them of any changes in the glaucoma, the monitoring required or prescription changes.
Go Live Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service is expected to start on 31st July 2012
Benefits to patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timely appointments in locations closer to home ▪ Shorter waiting times ▪ Good parking/transport links ▪ Tests all undertaken in a single visit
Contact details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newmedica 01473 453463 - suffolk@newmedica.co.uk ▪ CCG/PCT contacts - Nerinda.evans@suffolkpct.nhs.uk or Karen-lynnedowsing@suffolkpct.nhs.uk