

## **BCUHB WGOS 5 IPOS URGENT – GUIDANCE FOR REFERRING PRACTITIONERS**

Please refer to the national WGOS 5 IPOS Urgent manual for general pathway details and standard operating procedures.

[nhs.wales/sa/eye-care-wales/eye-care-docs/wgos-5-ipos-urgent-manual-pdf/](https://nhs.wales/sa/eye-care-wales/eye-care-docs/wgos-5-ipos-urgent-manual-pdf/)

### **BCUHB-specific arrangements and guidance**

Under the terms of the new Optometry contract, practitioners are required to refer to a local WGOS service before secondary care, where an appropriate service exists. For the purpose of IPOS Urgent, 'local' can be regarded as the patient not being required to incur significant further travel or inconvenience than if they were referred to their local Eye Casualty.

IPOS practices and their availability will be published and updated as necessary. This will be circulated to practice email addresses and listed on the BCUHB section of the Eye Care Wales Website.

IPOS is designed to provide additional capacity to secondary care Eye Casualty, not replace it. If an IPOS appointment is not available in a clinically appropriate time frame, referral should be made to Eye Casualty and not delayed.

### ***Referring into WGOS 5 IPOS Urgent***

For the standard operating procedure, please refer to the WGOS 5 IPOS Urgent manual section 5.0 'Pathway Standard Operating Procedures – Non-IP WGOS Optometrists and CLOs'.

Please note, referral into IPOS follows a completed WGOS examination. Patients should not be signposted to an IPOS practice without a completed WGOS examination. If the IPOS practice has fulfilled their agreed minimum availability, they are not obliged to accept additional referrals. The non-IP practitioner retains responsibility and must make alternative arrangements (i.e. referral to another IPOS practice or to Eye Casualty).

### ***Referrals between practices***

All referrals should be discussed and accepted by the IPOS practice before they are sent. Your current 'referral to HES' template should be used. If there are any changes to local referral systems (e.g. an electronic referral system) this will be agreed with the Regional Optical Committee and communicated to all Optometry practices.

### **Applying to join the service**

For any practices wishing to join the service, please refer to the guidance document 'BCUHB WGOS 5 IPOS Urgent – Guidance for participating practices' for further information and application form.