

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5125

**Please reply to:**  
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### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Orthoptic Department.

*You asked:*

*1) During 2017/18 financial year what is your total number of new patient and follow up episodes within the Orthoptic Department?*

*2) Please advise of your Orthoptic Department Structure, please indicate bands and WTE's*

*3) Does your Orthoptic Department carry out any of the below specialist clinics? Yes or no and who carries out these clinics?*

*a) Low Vision*

*b) Literacy Difficulties*

*c) Stroke*

*d) Paediatric Contact Lens*

*e) Adult Contact Lens*

*f) General Adult*

*g) General Paediatric*

*4) What is the allocated orthoptic appointment slot time for new and follow up appointments for the following clinics (in minutes)?*

*a) Low Vision*

*b) Literacy Difficulties*

*c) Stroke*

*d) Paediatric Contact Lens*

*e) Adult Contact Lens*

*f) General Adult*

*g) General Paediatric*

*5) Please can you provide the tariff your receive for the below subspecialities, new and follow up, please indicate if multi-disciplined (excluding market force factors)?*

*a) Low Vision*

*b) Literacy Difficulties*

*c) Stroke*

*d) Paediatric Contact Lens*

- e) *Adult Contact Lens*
- f) *General Adult*
- g) *General Paediatric*
- 6) *Do you employ Optometrists who carry out refraction in your paediatric doctor led clinics?*
- 7) *Do you have a clinical pathway for patients to be refracted within high street opticians? Yes or No*
- a) *If yes, what is the clinical criteria?*
- 8) *If you refract the patient do high street opticians invoice you via the Hospital Eye Services Prescription Scheme? Yes or No*
- a) *If yes, do you claim this money back from Clinical Commissioning Groups or NHS England or part of tariff?*
- 9) *What is your first line of treatment for occlusion? Eg Atropine/patching?*
- 10) *As part of your tariff do you provide any of the following aids/equipment?*
- a) *Prisms*
- b) *Planos*
- c) *Reusable occlusion patches (Fabric)*
- d) *Daily occlusion Patches (Sticky)*
- e) *Magnifier x 2*
- f) *LED Magnifier x 3*
- g) *LED Magnifier x 4 and above*
- h) *Pocket Magnifiers x 3.5*
- i) *Lanyards for pocket Magnifier*
- j) *Other Magnifiers please list*
- k) *TV Glasses*
- l) *UV filter glasses*
- m) *Hobby Magnifiers*
- n) *Replacement for broken Magnifiers*
- o) *Tinted glasses for visual stress*
- p) *Replacement for broken tinted glasses for visual stress*
- q) *Any other*
- 11) *Do patients pay or financially contribute for any of the following aids/equipment?*
- a) *Prisms*
- b) *Planos*
- c) *Reusable occlusion patches (Fabric)*
- d) *Daily occlusion Patches (Sticky)*
- e) *Magnifier x 2*
- f) *LED Magnifier x 3*
- g) *LED Magnifier x 4 and above*
- h) *Pocket Magnifiers x 3.5*
- i) *Lanyards for pocket Magnifier*
- j) *Other Magnifiers please list*
- k) *TV Glasses*
- l) *UV filter glasses*
- m) *Hobby Magnifiers*
- n) *Replacement for broken Magnifiers*
- o) *Tinted glasses for visual stress*
- p) *Replacement for broken tinted glasses for visual stress*
- q) *Any other*

12) Do you provide any of the following aids/equipment on a patient loan scheme?

- a) Prisms
- b) Planos
- c) Reusable occlusion patches (Fabric)
- d) Daily occlusion Patches (Sticky)
- e) Magnifier x 2
- f) LED Magnifier x 3
- g) LED Magnifier x 4 and above
- h) Pocket Magnifiers x 3.5
- i) Lanyards for pocket Magnifier
- j) Other Magnifiers please list
- k) TV Glasses
- l) UV filter glasses
- m) Hobby Magnifiers
- n) Replacement for broken Magnifiers
- o) Tinted glasses for visual stress
- p) Replacement for broken tinted glasses for visual stress
- q) Any other

Low vision

13) What is your clinical referral criteria for your low vision service eg vision 6/12 or worse?

Literacy Difficulties

14) Do you provide colorimetry assessment as part of your literacy difficulties service?

Trust response:

1) Across all our sites (Maidstone, Medway, Tunbridge Wells and Sittingbourne Hospitals) there were 6971 new case and 30 128 follow up Orthoptic episodes. This includes patients attending, not attending and cancellations. In addition the Orthoptic department in 2017/2018 were performing vision screening and tested 4574 children in their primary school.

- 2) 1.0 WTE Band 8b Head Orthoptist
- 0.8 WTE Band 8a Deputy Head Orthoptist
- 4.01 WTE Band 7 Advanced Orthoptists - Glaucoma Specialist, Stroke Specialist, Clinical Tutor, Site leads
- 5.2 WTE Band 6 Specialist Orthoptists
- 1.0 WTE Band 5 Medical Photographer
- 3.13 WTE Band 4 Ophthalmic Technician
- 0.4 WTE band 4 PA
- 0.97 Band 4 Clerical team leader
- 0.6 WTE Band 3 Deputy Clerical team leader
- 2.6 WTE Band 2 Clinic receptionists

3)

- a) No - carried out by hospital Optometry department
- b) Yes - Orthoptists who have had additional training for this patient group
- c) Yes - stroke specialist Orthoptist
- d) No - carried out by hospital Optometry department

- e) No - carried out by hospital Optometry department
- f) Yes - all Orthoptists
- g) Yes - all Orthoptists

4)

- a) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- b) 40 minutes new, 20 minutes follow up
- c) 40 minutes new and follow up
- d) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- e) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- f) 40 minutes new and follow up
- g) 40 minutes new, 20 minutes follow up

5)

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS trust is on an aligned incentives contract with West Kent CCG so there is no tariff per patient. We see patients from other CCG's and have no enhanced tariff for any of the services we offer so receive the usual new case and follow up tariff which I believe is £112 for a new case and £63 for a follow up.

- a) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- b) Literacy Difficulties - as above
- c) Stroke - as above
- d) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- e) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- f) General Adult - as above
- g) General Paediatric - as above

6) Yes, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS trust employ Optometrists to carry out refraction and fundus examinations so the majority of children do not need to see a consultant. The Optometrists are a separate department in their own right and are not managed by the Orthoptic department.

7) Yes

a)

All routine annual refractions on children over 4 years old unless they

- have special needs,
  - are having refractive manipulation to treat their squint e.g. minus lens therapy, bifocals
  - have a complex refractive error
  - have concerns regarding the accuracy of their previous high street test
- All adults unless it is the first time they are having prisms incorporated making their prescription unusually complex.

8) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department

a) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department

9) Patching

10)

a) Prisms - yes - stick on temporary prisms

- b) Planos - yes
- c) Reusable occlusion patches (Fabric) - yes
- d) Daily occlusion Patches (Sticky) - yes
- e) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- f) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- g) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- h) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- i) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- j) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- k) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- l) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- m) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- n) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- o) Tinted glasses for visual stress - no, overlays to trial given to patients but then directed to high street Optometrists with colorimeters for glasses.
- p) Replacement for broken tinted glasses for visual stress - no - directed to high street Optometrists with colorimeters
- q) Any other - Orthoptic exercises, motivational activities for children undergoing patching, bangerter foils and occlusive tape - all included in appointment cost and no additional charge to patient

11) Do patients pay or financially contribute for any of the following aids/equipment?

- a) Prisms - no charge for a prism unless they if they have a non-medical request for a second prism e.g. on sunglasses then we charge £25.
- b) Planos - no
- c) Reusable occlusion patches (Fabric) - no
- d) Daily occlusion Patches (Sticky) - no
- e) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- f) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- g) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- h) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- i) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- j) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- k) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- l) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- m) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- n) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- o) Tinted glasses for visual stress - trail overlays given by Orthoptic department but patient then directed to high street Optometrists with colorimeters for glasses.
- p) Replacement for broken tinted glasses for visual stress – Not applicable
- q) Any other

12) Do you provide any of the following aids/equipment on a patient loan scheme?

- a) Prisms - no
- b) Planos - no - some patients return their planos but due to infection control they are not reused.
- c) Reusable occlusion patches (Fabric) - no

- d) Daily occlusion Patches (Sticky) - no
- e) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- f) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- g) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- h) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- i) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- j) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- k) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- l) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- m) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- n) Not applicable- carried out by hospital Optometry department
- o) Not applicable - provided by high street Optometrists
- p) Not applicable - provided by high street Optometrists
- q) Any other

#### Low vision

13) The Hospital Optometry department run the low vision service, the Orthoptists/ Ophthalmologists can refer patients to the low vision service if they have a visual defect which is impacting on their daily living activities. They do not need to be registered sight impaired or have vision below a certain level e.g. a patient with a symptomatic visual field defect may actually have normal vision but still benefit from a low visual aid.

#### Literacy Difficulties

14) No, patients can have a specific learning difficulties Orthoptic assessment, including a developmental eye movement assessment, reading rate and intuitive colour overlay assessment. They are given overlays to trial if appropriate and if successful are then directed to high street Optometrists with colorimeters for glasses if required.