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## Recent News

We hosted our first virtual LOC meeting on Tuesday 28th April, this was preceded by a 30min Q&A session open to all colleagues in our area. A useful way for us all to keep informed with COVID-19 developments, with the opportunity to ask questions. We were joined by Nizz Sabir from LOCSU.

## Future Virtual Events

- Remote AGM **Wednesday 3rd June 6.30 pm.** (No CET included). Invite to follow shortly.
- Virtual **CET event, peer discussion** on the topic's of **remote consultations, emergency provision and record keeping.** Speak with your peers in small interactive groups to share ideas and experiences. (Date. To be confirmed)
- LOC Meeting. **Tuesday 7th July.** Begins with a Q&A session for all colleagues at 6.00pm, followed by meeting, observers are welcome.

## FAQ

### How can we get PPE?

We have placed a large facemask order. These can be purchased for a reduced fee with the LOC subsidising the costs on this occasion. It is likely that we will need this PPE for the foreseeable future. Payment will be required before collection by BACS transfer. More details emailed separately.

### Can we continue to use MECS?

Continue to use MECS as per the previous LOC guidance.

Claim in the usual manner - note recent change of email address for the spreadsheet. [PerformanceTeam@bradford.nhs.uk/remote](mailto:PerformanceTeam@bradford.nhs.uk/remote). Telephone consultations can be included with full record keeping and audit for suitable cases only. See College Covid 19 guidelines on remote consultations.

As previous emails have mentioned, please do not send any routine referrals at this stage.

## Update from the Newsletter team

Hello, we hope this mini newsletter finds you all safe and well. Apologies for the absence of the April edition. The edition was written, but COVID changes to the optical sector rendered the articles mostly irrelevant for the moment.

We will now aim to keep you informed more frequently about optical developments in our area. We will include FAQ and keep you updated with LOC support for contractors and performers. Events are changing rapidly, but information in our newsletter is correct at the time of writing. Please get in touch with any suggestions.

## Hospital Update



Charlotte Hazel has been appointed as the new Head of Optometry at BRI. She has advised that the Hospital are looking at alternative ways of reviewing patients. There may be the option of more shared-care type schemes for contractors who are interested. Bradford University eye clinic is likely to be utilised as part of this. The HES will not return to "normal" working for many months. Measures are being put in place to allow for more appropriate social distancing eye clinics over the next 12-18 months. Minimal face to face work is occurring, and telephone and email consultations are used whenever possible. Serious cases will only be seen if sight threatening or life changing. This also applies in the Orthoptic department. The Low Vision clinic is unlikely to see any face to face appointments due to many patients being high risk. The current situation is being reviewed on a weekly basis and optometrists are advised to call the usual Acute Referral Clinic number **01274 364238** for advice if they are unsure how to manage a patient.

## University Update

There is no face to face teaching, with all clinical work suspended. Students have online support and are being assessed online with vivas for 3rd years.

Our website now has a COVID 19 page, where you can find guidance on local referral pathway changes and an email address for the wet macula unit so scans or photographs can be sent (non NHS email has been approved for now). <http://www.bradfordloc.org.uk>.

Business support :- Bradford Council are distributing Small Business Grants. Contact the Council if you are a contractor and haven't received a letter from them. To claim, send your bank details and reference to [business.rates@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:business.rates@bradford.gov.uk)