**Overview Ophthalmology Pathways**

**The information contained in this document and all attached is subject to change in the light on ongoing developments and advice emanating from the DoH, RCOphth and others (attached).**

**Regular updates on** <https://rcophth.ac.uk/2020/03/covid-19-update-and-resources-for-ophthalmologists/>

**Please use this link for latest iteration of advice.**

**Rational for changes to service provision**

* **To protect patients and staff**
* **To free-up the maximum possible patient and emergency care capacity**
* **To reduce footfall through SEH**
* **Support staff, and maximise their availability**

**Actions to reduce exposure to infected patients**

* **Ensure messages reach patients that, if they are at risk, they should assess their symptoms online through NHS111 online system checker, before attending their appointments or arriving at the hospital.**
* **All staff to follow current Trust PPE guidance.**

**Screening at front door**

* Posters at all entrances advising not to enter if symptomatic or high personal risk and who to contact re any concerns regarding appointments.
* Aim for all patients to access building at single entry point to facilitate screening.
* Reception staff all have questionnaires to ask screening questions (Do you have a new persistant cough or a fever) and how to redirect patients.

**Eye Casualty**

* Eye casualty services to continue with screening at the door.
* All conversations to be documented on symphony.
* If suspect Covid-19 patient met at door by designated person and taken straight to dedicated clinic room (W6) for assessment / treatment.
* Any patients that we do need to see with Covid-19 symptoms will be seen in a safe isolated environment with staff wearing appropriate PPE.

**Workforce**

* Normal clinical timetables will be adjusted where required to meet the needs of the service.
* Clinical staff may be redeployed to other areas within all BSUH sites.

**Theatre**

* Theatre anaesthetic protocols for the trust to be observed.
* Keep record of all cancellations.
* Following Trust guidance for elective day cases.

**Clinics (OPD/Orthoptics flow charts and guidelines attached)**

* Individual specialties to have dedicated plan for their group of patients based on risk of sight loss vs. risk of COVID-19.
* Patients required to wear face masks, unless exempt. Mask station available at front desk.

**Clinical areas**

* Breathe guards on all slit lamps.
* Seats spaced out in waiting areas.
* See Trust PPE protocol.

**Ophthalmology Clinics/Orthoptics COVID-19 SOP**

**Clinic**

* Use RCOphth guidelines to appropriately categorise
* Those patients deemed high risk:
  + Arrange for patient to come in for appointment – no more than 2 patients at same time slot to avoid overcrowding in waiting area.
  + Only patient and max 1 accompanying person to attend (consideration to be taken if attending with under 1yr old)
  + If patient is high risk but has COVID-19 symptoms – clinician to decide if can wait for 7 day isolation to end. If need to be seen, to use PPE and isolation room.

**Reception**

* If patient with known COVID-19 symptoms has urgent condition and needs to attend, to meet patient at door give them a mask and escort to isolation clinic room. They should be examined by staff in correct PPE and room deep cleaned after patient has left.