

freedom.information@wvt.nhs.uk

26 June 2020

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST FOI2020/0061

Thank you for your request for information.

Wye Valley NHS Trust responds:

//////////////////////////////////REQUEST

1. Please confirm if the County Hospital Eye Unit ("the Unit") has in place a policy for the clinical management of patients who are referred to the Unit with acute symptomatic posterior vitreous detachment ("PVD").
2. If so, please provide a copy of that policy of management (if appropriate) or confirm:
 - i. The timeframe in which a patient must attend the Unit following a referral for acute symptomatic PVD.
 - ii. Details of the clinical management of a patient who presents to the Unit with acute symptomatic PVD (either following a referral or otherwise) including details of the diagnostic tests and/or investigations and/or treatments that are carried out.

Many patients with acute posterior vitreous detachment (PVD) symptoms are not seen in the eye unit, but in the community instead. The head of the Local Optical Committee (LOC) has confirmed:

“As part of the Minor Eye Condition Service (MECS) we would see any presentation of sudden Floaters & Flashes (F&Fs) within 48hrs, up to 6/52 duration of symptoms-except maybe [if] it is obviously a migraine. If we were unable to see them we would direct either to another MECS practice or direct them to eye case.

Post Covid each presentation will have been treated on a case-by-case basis. Practitioners may decline to see a patient if, once they had spoken to the patient, they determine it is low risk or if they do not have adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) (in this case they should refer to someone who can).

Beyond that we follow the college of optometrists guidance-see link below

<https://guidance.college-optometrists.org/guidance-contents/knowledge-skills-and-performance-domain/examining-patients-who-present-with-flashes-and-floaters/?searchtoken=floaters>”

If patients or referrers contact the eye casualty (they would not be referred routinely for this), we would aim to see them either the same day or within 24 hours. If a complicated PVD is referred in (e.g. with a tear, blood), they would be seen within 24 hours and nearly always the same day, unless referral received later in the evening (condition can wait till next day).

Within the department, all patients would undergo slit lamp examination and peripheral retinal examination, which would be documented. Normally, no special tests or other investigations would be necessary.

Uncomplicated PVDs are discharged with a retinal detachment warning and not reviewed, however, they are usually given one of the unit's PVD leaflets.

Patients with retinal tears are lasered the same day, with follow-up usually three weeks' later, but all patients would also receive a "retinal detachment warning" too. If there was clinical doubt about tear encirclement with laser, this would prompt earlier review (within days). Other complicated PVDs would be followed up on an individual basis.

Please note that a record of previous Trust FOI responses is now available to consult online by visiting:

<https://www.wyevalley.nhs.uk/about-us/information-requests/freedom-of-information-requests.aspx>

If you have queries or any concerns contact details are given at the top of the letter. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to:

Information Governance/Privacy Officer
Wye Valley NHS Trust
Monkmoor Court
31-34 Commercial Road
Hereford
HR1 2DX
Email: freedom.information@wvt.nhs.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113 www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Coordinator

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