

February 2012

Please could we obtain the following information about the four main eye conditions?

On Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

1. Your policy on the treatment of wet AMD. In particular, the use of Avastin (bevacizumab) and Lucentis (ranibizumab) for this condition.

We follow the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for the treatment of Wet Age Related Macular Degeneration; using mainly Lucentis as its use is funded by the Primary Care Trust (PCT).

2. Minutes and papers relating to any board meetings where this policy was discussed / approved.

We do not have any public minutes of meetings, the decision to use NICE guidelines has been discussed and approved in liaison with the PCT.

3. The information you give to patients to explain your policy on treating wAMD, in particular the treatment options including Avastin and Lucentis.

All information given on treatment options for wAMD, is provided verbally at the consultation between clinician and patient.

On cataract:

4. Your current policy on cataract surgery. In particular the criteria used to decide:

- when a patient is eligible for surgery*
- whether the patient can have surgery in both eyes if they have a cataract in both*

We carry out cataract surgery in accordance with local PCT guidelines. These stipulate that surgery should be provided for patients with visual acuity of less than 6/12 in both eyes. The patient is eligible under these PCT Guidelines to have both eyes operated on where visual acuity is less than 6/12.

On glaucoma:

5. What proportion of your glaucoma follow-up appointments are delayed or cancelled?

We do not keep a data on the proportion of glaucoma specific follow-up appointments that are delayed or cancelled, however as a department we do on occasions have to delay or cancel follow-up appointments due to a variety of reasons on which we are required to report at board level. Given the risk of failing to recall any patient with a progressive eye condition such appointments will always be booked into the next available clinic.