WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 21st April 2015

STATUS: Compliance

CATEGORY: POLICY

Title:
Children’s Vision Wales Pathway (4-5 year olds)

Date of Expiry / Review
N/A

For Action by:
Health Boards and NHS Trusts

Action required by:
Immediate

Sender:
Welsh Government

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Enclosure(s): None
Children’s Vision Wales Pathway (4- 5 year olds)

This pathway has been developed by the Children’s Vision Wales Advisory Group which was formed from orthoptists and optometrists from each health board in Wales.

The aim is to provide a flexible auditable pathway for school screening with onward referral to primary or secondary care to allow for the continuation of existing systems that were already working effectively. A national training package for health care support workers has also been developed.

The pathway also reflects the Minister for Health and Social Services’ vision for prudent health in working towards:

- Achieving health and wellbeing with the public, patients and professionals as equal partners through co-production;
- Caring for those with the greatest health need first, making the most effective use of all skills and resources;
- Doing only what is needed, no more, no less; and doing no harm.
- Reducing inappropriate variation using evidence based practices consistently and transparently.

The pathway was endorsed by the Wales Eye Health Steering Group in February 2015.
Vision screening age 4 - 5 years
Parental opt-out consent
Crowded LogMAR vision test (R+L)
Outcome recorded on National Child Health database

- **Pass**
  - Vision R & L 0.200 or better
  - Advise parent of screening pass via local process, explaining that full eye examination regularly available at local Optometrist (GOS)
  - No defect detected
  - Discharged to regular GOS service

- **Absent/unable**
  - Recalled once by screening programme
  - Absent again
  - Letter to parents advising child attends local Optometrist (GOS) for assessment
  - No glasses required
  - Vision R & L 0.225 or worse advise vision is re-checked
  - VAR &/or L 0.225 or worse and/or manifest strabismus
  - Orthoptic assessment/treatment
  - Treatment complete

- **Fail/unable**
  - Vision R & / or L 0.225 or worse
  - Child referred to Orthoptist/Optometrist for assessment of vision using Crowded LogMAR, Assessment of Binocular vision and motility, Cycloplegic refraction (when required) & fundus / media exam if indicated
  - Parents & School nursing team advised of outcome within 12 weeks of receipt of referral
  - Review within approximately 18-22 weeks (refractive adaptation period)
  - VAR & L 0.2 or better and no manifest strabismus
  - Discharge to regular GOS service