**NEWS ABOUT A NEW NHS EYECARE SERVICE FOR PATIENTS IN DUDLEY**

A new Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS) commissioned by Dudley CCG is available for Dudley patients from 1st October 2018. The Service is delivered by MECS accredited Opticians across Dudley.

* This is an NHS-funded service available for patients with minor eye problems
* The service is for patients registered with Dudley CCG GP practices
* It is for people of all ages – adults and children
* Children under 16 years must be accompanied at their appointment by an adult
* Patients will be referred to the new service by their GP, pharmacist or optician where appropriate
* Patients can self-refer into the service.

Patients can be seen by your local MECS Opticians for problems such as:

* Red eye
* Dry eye, gritty and uncomfortable eyes
* Irritation and inflammation of the eye
* Significant recent sticky discharge from the eye or watery eye
* Recently occurring or sudden increase of flashes and floaters
* Painful eye
* In-growing eyelashes
* Recent and sudden reduced vision
* Something in your eye.

A&E may be most appropriate for more serious eye conditions or injuries such as:

* Sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes
* Considerable eye pain
* Significant trauma such as penetrating injury or lacerations to the eye or eyelid
* Chemical injury or burns
* Problems arising from recent eye surgery.

The aim of the MECS service is:

* To assist patients and carers with self-care, education and care planning where necessary
* To improve the patient experience and offer access to a choice of services using the existing network of optometry practices
* To deliver a timely, easily accessible, high quality optometry and ophthalmology service for Dudley
* To expand the number of locations where patients can be treated
* To streamline the referral and treatment process resulting in a reduction in patient waiting times and improved access
* To reduce the number of follow-up outpatient appointments
* To improve communication between specialists and the patient’s GP
* To reduce the number of unnecessary secondary care referrals for non-urgent eye conditions
* To provide value for money for the NHS.

All GP Practices and Pharmacies will shortly be receiving an information pack containing leaflets and posters for staff to signpost to the service.

You can also direct your patients to our website [www.eyecarewm.co.uk](http://www.eyecarewm.co.uk) for them to locate their nearest provider of MECS services.