



Optometry Newsletter



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Addysg a Gwella Iechyd
Cymru (AaGIC)
Health Education and
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

November 2023

Report on “Eyes on HEIW” Optometry Conference, 20 September 2023

We held our first conference for optometrists and dispensing opticians at Miskin Manor on 20 September. The event provided an opportunity for free CPD, including peer review, case-based discussion and keynote lecture. It was extremely popular and was universally well received. Attracting over 100 attendees in person, it was an excellent opportunity to network for all optometrists and dispensing opticians across Wales.

Nik Sheen, Head of Optometry at HEIW, said, “The conference was a resounding success thanks to the hard work of the optometry staff at HEIW and our facilitators. It was great to see so many colleagues and friends as well as many new faces.

‘It was an excellent event and a real positive that it was a face-to-face event. The catering was excellent. The organisation was excellent, the facilitators and presenters were excellent so thank you very much for all the work involved.’

‘All the discussions were relevant to both professions
(Optometrists & Dispensing Opticians)’

The messaging for the conference was how we can support the professions deliver the new optometry contract”. He added “It also gave us an opportunity to showcase some of the developments HEIW has been doing for the professions in Wales”.

Subjects included duty of candour, glaucoma, and low vision signposting, with the keynote on OCT interpretation delivered in unique style by Gwyn Williams, Llywydd of The Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

The conference cut down the use of paper with the presentations and case histories available to all users on-line live at the event, instead of paper brochures.

Feedback was unanimously positive and included the following:

‘Another well-presented discussion with plenty of time for reflection and discussion around the various aspects of Low Vision practice.’



The HEIW conference received an overall rating of 4.6/5.0.



Call for Self-Funded Low Vision Practitioners

As part of the new contract, we are delighted to announce that practitioners that have previously undertaken the equivalent of the Professional Certificate in Low Vision at a UK university will now be able to provide the LVSW (following top up training hosted by HEIW). Historically, only those with HEIW approved sponsorship could do so.

If you are one of the practitioners that holds the above qualification already, and are keen to get involved in this fantastic service for your patients, please [fill in the form here](#) or scan the QR code below:



We will be in touch with you in due course following receiving the form.

Should you have any further queries regarding low vision training, please contact the Low Vision Training Lead on: heiw.optometrylowvision@wales.nhs.uk

Save the Date - HEIW Optometry Conference

Wednesday 13 March 2024

The Oriel Hotel,
Upper Denbigh Rd,
Saint Asaph
LL17 0LW



Wales General Ophthalmic Services (WGOS) Training Update

We would like to extend a huge thank you to those practitioners who have been working incredibly hard on completing the core training requirements for the new Optometry contract. We are incredibly grateful for the feedback received and would like to encourage those of you who have not submitted any yet to do so.

For those of you yet to undertake the training modules required in the delivery of WGOS, please sign up on the HEIW learning platform by clicking [here](#). All Optometrists, Dispensing Opticians and Practice staff members who undertake any delegated tasks to aid in the delivery of care must undertake the training as below.

WGOS	Make Every Contact Count (MECC)	Infection Prevention Control and Sharps Safety	Improving Quality Together – Improvement Training
Describes how WGOS is structured and how it can be delivered	Describes how conversations in optometry practice can be used to support patients in health lifestyle choices	Describes how you can ensure safe care for patients by using infection prevention control and safely dealing with sharps in practice.	Describes how quality improvement can be used to support evidence-based decision making to ensure provision of safe, quality care for patients
1 CPD point	1 CPD point	1 CPD point	2 CPD point

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at HEIW.Optometry@wales.nhs.uk putting 'YTD' in the subject header of the email. Alternatively, you may contact us on **01443 824653**. The HEIW team are accessible Monday-Friday between 9am-4pm and endeavour to respond to emails and calls as soon as is possible.

Please note: HEIW is responsible for the training and education of the workforce, any service queries need to be directed to nwssp-primarycareservices@wales.nhs.uk.

heiw.optometry@wales.nhs.uk

Any queries or WGOS training and accreditation

nwssp-primarycareservices@wales.nhs.uk

WGOS clinical or WGOS management queries

HEIW.OptometryLowVision@wales.nhs.uk

Low Vision training and accreditation

Low.vision@wales.nhs.uk

Low Vision Service Wales - clinical, management or service delivery queries