**Ophthalmology: Support document for commissioners**

**through CCGs, STPs and regional reconfigurations**

**Appendix 1**

Examples of new ways of providing care

**Referral refinement**

More than 50% of referrals from the diabetic retinal screening service are considered false positives (low risk maculopathy). Automatic grading has been shown to be effective and has promise to reduce workload. Services using OCT screening reduce referrals and patients can be followed up in the community

**Virtual Clinics**

Virtual review of glaucoma and age related macular degeneration patients is becoming increasingly common. Patients may be seen solely by technicians or non-medical HCPs and the information gathered through examination and imaging is viewed remotely by the ophthalmologist who does not routinely see the patient. <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/standards-publications-research/the-way-forward/>

**Discharge policies**

Acute and emergency departments should have clear discharge and onward referral for patients. This includes telephone review and clear patient information regarding self-management and indications for review.