

# A Preliminary audit on The Compliance of Ophthalmology Referrals (from Endocrine wards) with Outlined Criteria in Request Forms

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## Background:

The PICS Ophthalmology referral is a new system that was adopted in April 2025. Before this, referrals were made via emailing a word document containing relevant details to the Ophthalmology department. Therefore, this is a preliminary audit with a small data pool.

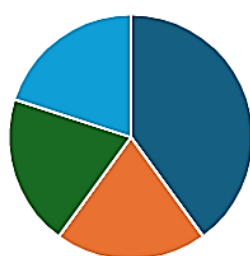
## Inclusion Criteria:

- All Ophthalmology request forms submitted from the Endocrine wards (wards 8 and 10) at Good Hope Hospital
- Between the months April 2025 and July 2025
- Excluding 1 patient who was mistakenly referred via the old emailing system

## Results:

- 6 total patients
- 1 patient mistakenly referred via the old emailing system
- Common clinical questions were: ?Endophthalmitis, ?papilledema, ?visual involvement
- 2/5 patients referred for visual field test.
- 0% of patients referred with visual acuity assessed using a standardized eye chart
- 2/5 patients referred without BG/ investigations/clinical impression details
- 4/5 patients referred without examination findings
- One patient's clinical question was simply 'Ophthalmology review please'
- 4/5 referred without bleep number

Reason for referral



■ Visual Field test ■ Painful Eye ■ Trauma ■ Red Eye

Figure 1: Reason for referral to Ophthalmology

## Aims:

The aim of this audit was to investigate the compliance of medical staff on the completion of Ophthalmology referral request forms from the Endocrine wards at Good Hope Hospital. The endocrine wards lack any standardized eye chart<sup>1</sup> to measure visual acuity; therefore, it was unlikely these request forms were being completed adequately. Additionally, as this is a relatively new request form, the aims of the audit also include recommending any useful changes to the Ophthalmology team.

## Methods:

- This was a retrospective analysis of all the patients referred via the PICS referral system since its adoption in April 2025.
- First, I selected appropriate patients using the 'Ward Referrals' book kept in the Ophthalmology Department in Good Hope Hospital
- Around 45 patients in the book had no information on what ward they were referred from – I searched these patients individually on PICS to determine whether they fit the inclusion criteria
- Data collection on the completion of the PICS request forms
- Processing of the results on Excel spreadsheets

## Conclusions:

- Inadequate completion of request forms + ward referrals book
- Request form requires improvement – not specific enough to Ophthalmology

## Recommendations:

- Request forms should replace 'Brief history and examination findings' with: 'Brief History', 'Details of eye disease', and 'Eye examination findings'
- Request forms must be completed fully by referring clinician
- All wards must have Snellen charts, and all doctors trained in the use of them.
- Ward referrals books must have referring ward specified for every patient

**References:** 1. Royal College of Ophthalmologists (Nov 2015) *Snellen and LogMar acuity testing*. [internet].