

Reference: FOI.ICB-2627/085

Subject: Ophthalmology Referrals

I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Total ophthalmology referrals by month from January 2025 to the most current month for which data is available, broken down by receiving provider.	Please refer to enclosed spreadsheet.
2. If known or readily available, please could you provide data on how many of these referrals related to cataracts?	Please refer to enclosed spreadsheet.
3. If known or readily available, please could you provide data on the number of referrals rejected and/or returned to the referring organisation?	Please refer to enclosed spreadsheet. The following data only includes information on referrals that have been sent via the Referral Service between period 1/1/2025 and 31/5/2026 for adults only: • Total ophthalmology referrals received: 34,768 • Total ophthalmology referrals returned to referrer: 4.7% (1638 referrals) • Total cataract referrals received: 13,783 • Total cataract referrals returned to referrer: 3.59% (495 referrals)

4. Is a Single Point of Access (SPOA) in place for ophthalmology within your ICB area? If so, please confirm the organisation(s) who operates it?	There is no SPoA in place for Ophthalmology at any provider in BNSSG currently. At this time Ophthalmology referrals (as well as referrals for many other specialities) go into the BNSSG Referral Service, before passing onto providers.
5. In the last six months, has your ICB issued any guidance to the ophthalmology SPOA regarding the triage of referrals or the allocation of referrals to specific providers?	We do not have SPoA established for Ophthalmology at this time. To be clear a SPoA is not responsible for allocating referrals to other providers – patient choice applied. While the ‘group SPoA’ model, where there is a centralised speciality triage hub that sits across multiple organisations, may exist in some places, the destination of a referral is dictated by patient choice (that is choice among the providers that can offer the care pathway/treatment required). Similarly, ‘Individual Provider SPoAs’ (and providers that are not mandated to set up the SPoA model – such as the IS) will receive referrals that have, through a patient exercising choice, been sent specifically to them. The ‘allocation of referrals to specific providers’ is therefore determined by patient choice. This is also the case with our current model of Ophthalmology referrals going into the BNSSG Referral Service, where patient choice determines the destination of the referral when passing onto providers.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 19 June 2026 and has been approved for release by Caroline Dawe, Deputy Director of Performance and Delivery, Acute and Integrated Care, MHLDA and EPRR for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.

*these volumes are <5 so subject to small number suppression

Question 1

	Circle	NewMedica	Out of Area - Other	Out of Area - Trust	PracticePlus	RUH	Somerset_SS	Spamedica	Sulis	uhbw
01/01/2025	*	469	38	*	108	*	76	92	*	983
01/02/2025		566	51	10	150		91	132	*	910
01/03/2025		586	49	*	164		97	111	*	982
01/04/2025		550	41	*	185		115	118	*	1122
01/05/2025	*	487	31	*	140		83	131		944
01/06/2025		529	23	*	154	*	90	124		1034
01/07/2025	*	575	32	13	152		76	130		1063
01/08/2025	*	517	16	*	127		82	125		910
01/09/2025		530	35	*	164		102	136	*	1047
01/10/2025		634	37	14	174		132	190	*	1203
01/11/2025	*	433	37	11	139		90	114	*	1061
01/12/2025		304	35	*	104		73	86	*	846
01/01/2026	*	377	74	9	101		84	136	*	1114
01/02/2026		571	79	*	112		103	153	*	1034
01/03/2026	*	501	69	*	129		90	133	*	1015
01/04/2026	*	543	116	*	115		67	155	*	966
01/05/2026		570	114	*	154		108	152	*	1365

Question 2

	Circle	NewMedica	Out of Area - Other	Out of Area - Trust	PracticePlus	Somerset_SS	Spamedica	Sulis	uhbw
01/01/2025	*	269	29		87	56	53	*	145
01/02/2025		301	43		112	68	78	*	132
01/03/2025		314	40		127	80	73	*	182
01/04/2025		309	31	*	148	96	80	*	165
01/05/2025	*	242	21		109	63	87		175
01/06/2025		275	17		117	65	73		194
01/07/2025	*	297	22		127	60	75		171
01/08/2025	*	277	13		103	64	72		133
01/09/2025		306	27		138	73	90	*	183
01/10/2025		359	22		142	101	120	*	221
01/11/2025	*	243	19		102	63	80	*	171
01/12/2025		151	16		83	53	47		132
01/01/2026	*	216	22	*	91	66	90	*	182
01/02/2026		339	23	*	95	80	105	*	163
01/03/2026	*	300	17	*	106	67	88	*	174
01/04/2026	*	345	23	*	83	45	93		172
01/05/2026		341	24		122	80	95	*	201

Question 3

	Circle	NewMedica	Out of Area - Other	Out of Area - Trust	PracticePlus	Somerset_SS	Spamedica	Sulis	uhbw
01/01/2025	*								*
01/02/2025	*	*	*	*	*	*			
01/03/2025					*	*			*
01/04/2025					*	*			*
01/05/2025					*				
01/06/2025				*	*	*			*
01/07/2025			*		*	*	*		*
01/08/2025					*				
01/09/2025					*	*			*
01/10/2025				*	*	*			*
01/11/2025				*	*				*
01/12/2025					*	*			*
01/01/2026		*			*	*	*	*	
01/02/2026					*		*		*
01/03/2026					*	*		*	*
01/04/2026					*				*
01/05/2026					*	*			