

Guidelines on who should be referred to an ECLO

R N I B

See differently

This brief guide for medical and clinical staff, GPs, Nurses and Optometrists will help you refer patients to an ECLO (Eye Clinic Liaison Officer) who is there to offer practical and emotional support to anyone affected by sight loss, their families and carers.

Your ECLO would welcome referrals for anyone who:

- Has any degree of sight loss, or is affected by sight loss. They may have a new diagnosis of a sight threatening condition, or had sight loss for a while. This includes family members, carers and friends.
 - Has been offered or considered for certification as sight impaired (SI) or severely sight impaired (SSI), or who meets the eligibility guidelines. This includes those who are newly certified, those who are unsure, and those whose certification status has changed (i.e. from SI to SSI).
 - Might benefit from emotional support. For example, anyone who appears to be upset or distressed, has not understood or taken in what you have said, or is expressing concerns about their future.
 - Might benefit from information about eye conditions.
 - Might need information about other support available, i.e. Sensory Teams, Vision Rehabilitation, and Services for Children with Vision Impairment (VI).
 - Needs general support and advice about aids or adaptations, mentions practical difficulties when at work or at home, or who has been referred to the Low Vision service.
 - Has sight loss and is at risk of becoming isolated (perhaps they have no support or family locally), are at risk of falling, or who appear to be frail.
 - Has sight loss and is of working age, whether they are in employment or not.
 - Would benefit from further information or support around treatment compliance, i.e. drops for glaucoma.
 - Has had a stroke or brain injury and has visual difficulties as a result.
 - Has been told that their sight has fallen below the level needed for driving.
 - Attends the eye department with sudden sight loss.
 - Is a child or young person with VI, and their families, who might benefit from a referral to VI Education Services or to a Qualified Teacher of Vision Impairment (QTVI).
 - Has sight loss and whose circumstances have recently changed (for example, their spouse has passed away).
- Please also consider any inpatients or those who have sight loss attending other wards or departments.**



For further information about your local ECLO and referral procedures, please contact:

Sight Loss Advice Service • 0303 123 9999 • rnib.org.uk/advice