



Monitoring for hydroxychloroquine retinopathy in Devon

The new Royal College of Ophthalmology (RCO) guidelines for hydroxychloroquine retinopathy represent a significant departure from previous guidelines and, as is the case with most parts of the country, require planning of services to accommodate into routine practice. The Devon CCGs are working through how to implement ophthalmological monitoring for patients receiving hydroxychloroquine with secondary care engagement. The subject has been discussed by the Devon Clinical Policy Committee at which the voting GPs recommended the principles by which a service should be commissioned. The details of how this will operate require working up. In the interim, the ophthalmologists consider that the risk to patients is low and whilst discussions are ongoing about establishing new local guidelines for monitoring patients, local ophthalmologists recommend that any patient with visual disturbance taking hydroxychloroquine should be referred to the eye clinic for review. Patients should continue to be advised to have normal, routine eye tests at high street opticians. Visual disturbance detected at such visits should also result in referral to the eye clinic.