

Some common terms and acronyms used at LOC meetings and in minutes.

Last updated 9 November 2017. If you find a term missing, please email whitestar123@hotmail.com and we will try to include it.

The LOC will use certain terms and acronyms in meetings and minutes. Also, the NHS is very fond of using acronyms (see NHS Speak) and seems to be inventing new ones all the time. Here are a few to help people new to LOCs.

Don't worry about trying to memorise this, just refer to it as you feel you need to.

ACO- Accountable Care Organisation. Local groups of NHS organisations including CCGs covering a STP area, the relevant hospital trusts etc. There is a drive to make STPs into ACSs then ACOs. Supposed to be a more effective and accountable commissioning body/business model/care model. However, it may mean that as Acute trusts start to have more input in commissioning decisions this will perhaps may make it more opaque.

ACS- Accountable care systems. See ACO.

Acute Trust – Basically the hospitals e.g. Russell's Hall.

AOB-Any other business

AOP-Association of Optometrists

CCG-Clinical Commissioning Group. These are local NHS bodies who commission health care services. The local one is Dudley CCG. It is the body that would commission Enhanced services.

CET-continuous education and training

Community Services – see Services delivered outside of hospital

Community Monitoring – aka Primary care-based management. Suitable patients are discharged from the hospital and monitored by an accredited optometrist, who re-refers if there is progression e.g. stable ocular hypertension, stable glaucoma, treated stable former wet AMD.

DO-Dispensing Optician

DOCET- The Directorate of Optometric Continuing Education. They produce their own CET material, and it is possible to apply for funding for CET events from them.

EGM-Extraordinary general meeting. A general meeting other than the usual annual general meeting

Enhanced Services – See Extended Primary Care Services

Extended Primary Care Services – Formally Enhanced Services. These are services that are commission in addition to the normal sight test contract (GOS). This includes services like MECS, Repeat IOP schemes (IOPRM), and cataract direct referral.

GERS- Glaucoma Enhanced Referral Service. This is a locally commissioned scheme where all glaucoma referrals instead of going directly to the hospital are routed through accredited optometrists who perform a series of tests (usually visual fields, Goldmann, dilated binocular disc assessment, and van Herrick). Accreditation is usually in the form of the WOPEC Cataract qualification plus its Professional Certificate in Glaucoma.

GOC- General Optical Council

GOS-General Optical Services. Sight testing services which are now the responsibly of NHS England

Healthi- New web based system for recording outcome of enhanced services, planned successor to Webstar

HLO-healthy living opticians scheme. Dudley has the first scheme in the country, and it is analogous to the healthy living pharmacy scheme

HWMROC- Heart of West Midlands Regional Optical Committee. This is a committee formed of officers from Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Birmingham and Solihull LOCs. It's role is to coordinate our approach across the region. It is not a statutory body, and its authority stems only from the LOCs decision to continue to support it.

ICS- Integrated care systems. Have evolved from sustainability and transformation partnerships (STPs) and take the lead in planning and commissioning care for their populations and providing system leadership.

IOP-intra ocular pressure

IOPRM- IOP repeat measures. Usually refers to enhanced service schemes where pressures over 21mmHg found using non-contact tonometry at a sight test are checked again with a Goldmann applanation tonometer for a fee.

LeHN – Local eye health network. Local bodies set up by NHS England to bring stakeholders together to try to improve services. May include ophthalmologists, orthoptists, optometrists, health commissioners, patient groups, the voluntary sector e.g. Beacon etc.

LDC- Local Dental committee

LMC- Local Medical Committee

LOC- Local optical committee

LOCSU-Local Optical Committee Support Unit. A national body that receives funding from LOCs. Each LOC is free to decide to fund it or not. It provides invaluable help in trying to commission enhanced services

LPC- Local Pharmacy Committee

MECS-Minor eye conditions service, also known as PEARS(diminished) An enhanced service that allows optometrists to be paid for seeing and managing minor eye conditions e.g. red eye, flashes and floaters etc. outside a normal sight test.

MECC- Making Every Contact Count. An NHS initiative to try to get the most out of every contact with a patient in order to address other health issues apart from the one the patient was attending for e.g. smoking cessation.

NHS Speak – An informal term used for the terminology used by the NHS. For some reason the NHS likes to make up its own terminology for things, and then expect everyone to use that terminology. It results in making it difficult for anyone who is not in the NHS to understand what someone is talking about regarding NHS services etc. It also results in needing guides like this.

NOC-National Optometric conference. Annual conference organised by LOCSU on behalf of the AOP. It brings LOC committee members together from across England in order to inform them of developments in optometry and allow networking. Mainly geared in recent years to trying to get enhanced services commissioned

OAs-Optical Assistants

OCT-Optical coherence tomography (scanner) which provides imaging of the retinal layers.

Optomanger- Web based system used by front line optometry practices for recording the outcome of enhanced services. Used in the majority of areas in the country. Developed by Cegidim Rx (formally Webstar). Handles

invoicing/claiming fees for the practices automatically. Also allows the Primary Eyecare company to obtain detailed audit and outcome data which is provided to the CCG.

OSCEs-Objective Structured Clinical examination. Newer type of examination where candidates are tested at a series of stations that each deal with a clinical scenario or test a clinical skill e.g. Volk

OT- Optometry Today

PEARS- Primary eyecare acute referral scheme. See MECS

PEC – Primary eyecare company. See PEHOWN

PCSE-Primary care support England. Responsible for managing claims for fees for NHS services and other GOS matters.

PEHOWM – Primary Eyecare (Heart of West Midlands), also known as the “Regional Company”. A not-for-profit company set up by the LOCs in the HWMROC. The company tenders for and administers enhanced service schemes. This allows commissioners (primarily CCGs) to deal with one point of contact, and the Regional Company then sub-contracts with practices. Via memo of understanding it is answerable to the LOC, and is committed to allowing any practice that is appropriately accredited to be able to join local schemes.

Primary eyecare company. See PEHOWN

Primary care-based management. See community monitoring

RNIB-Royal National Institute of Blind people

ROC- Regional Optical Committee. See HWMROC

Services delivered outside of hospital – formally Community Services. Services formally delivered at the hospital, but now delivered elsewhere e.g. outreach clinics, optometry practices etc.

Services delivered by primary care in partnership with hospital – formally Shared Care. This is where services are offered by community optometry but with a consultant at the hospital still in overall control and who has ultimate responsibility.

Shared Care – see Services delivered by primary care in partnership with hospital

Step-down care – see Community monitoring or Primary care-based management. This term has been changed less than 2 years after being introduced to optometry which is a good measure of how silly some of this “NHS Speak” is (see NHS Speak)

STP-Sustainability & Transformation Plan. A recent NHS idea to improve uniformity of service and improve efficiency across a regional area. This involves the coordination of a group of CCGs to commission services across wider areas. The idea is there are economies of scale as well as an increased concentration of expertise and a reduction in local variation of delivery.

WMUECN-West Midlands Urgent & Emergency Care Network

Meeting attendees are often abbreviated to their initials in minutes. The current committee is:

CB- Charles Barlow (Vice Chair), **DW**-David Wright (treasurer), **GD**-Gurdeep Dosanjh, **JM**-Jasheen Mangat

KR-Kay Reeves, MT-Mark Tuffin (not currently a committee member), NF-Nicky Ferguson, PB-Peter Bainbridge

PS-Paul Sidhu (Secretary), RB-Rosline Birhah (CET Officer), SA- Shamina Asif (Chair) SJ-Sunit Jolly ST- Sonia Tyrrell