**The L&D Ophthalmology “*rapid access wet AMD*” referral pathway.**

The Eye department at the Luton & Dunstable University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust have for many years run a “*rapid access wet AMD*” service to ensure that patients who present with wet AMD are accepted and seen within an appropriate timeframe.

When a patient is identified as having suspected late Age-Related Macular Degeneration (wet active) NICE guidance advice is that they should be referred urgently to a Macula service within 1 working day.

The Royal College of Ophthalmology (RCOPH) advise that patients with wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration should be seen within 2 weeks (10 working days) of referral.

**Optometrists**

For patients presenting at local Optometrist practices who are suspected to have “*wet AMD*” a rapid access referral form should be completed and emailed (**ldophthalmology@nhs.net**) within 1 working day.

**GP practices**

For patients presenting at their GP practice that are suspected to have “*wet AMD*” a new referral should be sent within 1 working day via the triage service on the Electronic Referral System (ERS) as shown below:

**AMD-RAS-Ophthalmology-Luton & Dunstable Hospital-RC9**

You will not be able to book an appointment on the ERS system for the patient as this service allows the referral to be triaged by the hospital consultant before the appointment is booked.

The patient should hear from the AMD co-ordinator within 72 hours of receipt of referral and an appointment normally given for within 1 to 2 weeks.

Referrers should explain this process to the patient and ask them to contact if they have not heard within this time. In these circumstances, the referrer should contact the AMD co-ordinator on **01582 497328** to confirm they have received the referral.