



RACGP

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

Healthy Profession.
Healthy Australia.

7 May 2019

Ms Margaret Lum
Manager – Projects, RANZCO
94–98 Chalmers St,
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the RANZCO Referral Pathway for Glaucoma Management. The RACGP would like to offer feedback regarding:

1. The role of general practitioners (GPs)
2. Communication of management plans.

1. The role of general practitioners (GPs)

The pathway appears to appropriately share care between the optometrist and ophthalmologist; however, the guideline does not mention the role GPs in patient care. GPs have a role in managing glaucoma, including:

- coordinating care
- responding to acute changes
- avoiding prescribing medicines that might exacerbate the situation, and
- encouraging adherence to the monitoring or treatment plan.

GPs provide holistic care and will have information regarding medications and other medical problems that might affect the prescribing of some glaucoma medications. GPs also refer patients for [preventive eye checks](#). The RACGP recommends that this role be acknowledged within the Referral Pathway for Glaucoma Management.

2. Communication of management plans

It is important that the pathway includes a step for optometrists and ophthalmologists to communicate comprehensive treatment plans to a patient's GP. This would at least include communicating the outcomes of assessments, key recommendations for further management, and monitoring requirements. This ensures adherence to the plan, and allows GPs to incorporate the plan into the management of any other conditions the patient might have.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this document. Should you want to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Stephan Groombridge, Manager, eHealth and Quality Care on (03) 8669 0544 or at stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Harry Nespolon
President