

ECHoES study: Focus groups with optometrists/ophthalmologists

Topic guide

Background

- Please introduce yourself to the group by describing your profession and your main roles within this.

Current care for MD

- How often do you each see people with AMD, the neovascular or wet form in particular?
- What general model of care do you each use for patients with nAMD?
- What do you all think about the model of care that you use?
(*Probe: Good and less good aspects of it*)

Shared care programmes

- Are any of you currently involved with any shared-care programmes?
(*Probe: Is this hospital eye service (HES) ophthalmologist led? HES optometrist or nurse led? HES combined? Any others?*)
- If so – What's your view on them?/How do you find them?
(*Probe: mechanisms of the model, level of involvement, involvement of time, communication with primary/secondary care*)
- What works well/less well with these models?

Proposed shared-care model

As I've already said, we would like to hear your thoughts about a proposed shared-care model for people with AMD, so those with a stable condition can be monitored by optometrists in the community and referred to hospital for treatment if the disease becomes active again.

- What are all of your first thoughts about this?
(*Probe: Feasibility? Acceptability?*)
- Is this something any of you would be keen to be involved with or less so?
(*Probe: Why? Reservations?*)
- (OPTOMS ONLY) What would motivate you to join a shared-care scheme?
- What do you think might be the barriers to introducing such a model?
- What do you think might facilitate the introduction of such a model?
- (OPTOMS ONLY) Would you feel confident monitoring individuals with AMD and referring them onto ophthalmologists?
- What training do you think would be required in order to do this?
(*Probe: How do you think the training should be delivered? Web based/ training in clinical setting?*)
- (OPTOMS ONLY) Do any of you have access to an OCT? (*Prompt: For those that do, how comfortable do you feel in using it? Where were you taught how to interpret it?*)
- Could you see such a model working in practice?
(*Probe: How can you see it being operationalised? What would work for you*)
- Who do you feel should be responsible for the patient?
- Are there any other issues you would like to discuss?

ECHoES study: Interviews with health professionals

Topic guide

Background

Current care for MD

- Could you tell me a bit about yourself and your main roles?
- Can you describe what general model of care your CCGs use for patients with nAMD?
- What is patient pathway like?
- What do you all think about the model of care that you use?
(*Probe: Good and less good aspects of it*)

Shared care programmes

- Are any of you currently involved with any shared-care programmes?
(*Probe: Is this hospital eye service (HES) ophthalmologist led? HES optometrist or nurse led? HES combined? Any others?*)
- If so – What's your view on them?/How do you find them?
(*Probe: mechanisms of the model, level of involvement, involvement of time, communication with primary/secondary care*)
- What works well/less well with these models?

Proposed shared-care model

As I've already said, I'd like to hear your thoughts about a proposed shared-care model for people with AMD, so those with a stable condition can be monitored by optometrists in the community and referred to hospital for treatment if the disease becomes active again.

- What are all of your first thoughts about this?
(*Probe: Feasibility? Acceptability?*)
- Is this something any of you would be keen to be involved with or less so?
(*Probe: Why? Reservations?*)
- What would motivate you to join a shared-care scheme?
- What do you think might be the barriers to introducing such a model?
- What do you think might facilitate the introduction of such a model?
- What training do you think would be required in order to do this?
(*Probe: How do you think the training should be delivered? Web based/ training in clinical setting?*)
- Do you think this amount of extra training is sufficient/ wide ranging enough, given the existing skill set that optoms bring to their professional roles? Should there be some CPD element to ensure that optoms are kept abreast of new technologies?
- Should there be accreditation, and from who?
- Could you see such a model working in practice?
(*Probe: How can you see it being operationalised? What would work for you? Issues around inter-professional trust? Thoughts from a GP/commissioner perspective*)
- Who do you feel should be responsible for the patient?
- What do you think the patient would prefer?
- How would the patient pathway work? (*Probe: How would patients access this service? Would all stable patients be eligible, or are there a specific cohort of patients who may be more suitable?*)
- Previous FGs have suggested importance of having a strong link between primary care and secondary care. What processes should be in place to ensure this?
- What do you think are the financial considerations with shared care? (*Probe: Would optometrists be paid to do this? Is this cost efficient?*)
- Are there any other issues you would like to discuss?

ECHoES study: Focus groups with service users

Topic guide

Getting started

Could you please start by telling us:

- Your first name,
- How long you have had ‘wet’ AMD?
- Could each of you please tell me a little bit about your MD – how bad it is and how it affects your life (if at all)?

Experiences of MD care

- Where do you generally go to get care for your eyes?
(Probe if received care from hospital doctor, optometrist or GP?)
- Do you see someone about your eyes on a regular basis?
(Probe: Who, where, how get there – thoughts on all of these?)
- What treatment have you received for your eyes in the past? Where?
What treatment do you receive for your eyes now? Where?
- What do you think about the visits you have with the hospital eye specialist?
(Probe: Good/less good bits, information given, action taken, time involved, frequency, ease of access?)
- What do you think about the visits you have had with other healthcare professionals outside of the hospital, eg at the opticians (optometrist) or GP?
(Probe: Good/less good bits, information given, action taken, time involved, frequency, ease of access, how compare with care from the hospital?)
- What’s important to you in terms of the care you receive for your eyes?
- What changes, if any, would you make to your current care for your MD?

Proposed shared care model

As I’ve already said we’re considering a ‘shared’ model of care so that people like yourself would have regular visits to an optometrist – who is an eye specialist but not a doctor based in the high street optician shops, and only go to the hospital if they needed injections or other treatment if their MD became active again.

- What are your first thoughts about this way of looking after your eyes?
(Probe: why? Any concerns about level of expertise vs access?)
- What might attract you to this?
- What might put you off of this?
- Would you want to be cared in this way or keep as it is?
- Could you think of a better or different way of managing your eye condition?