Dear Primary Care Clinician

I am contacting you with information about the waiting times for new appointments at the hospital ophthalmology services of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (KCH) and Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT).
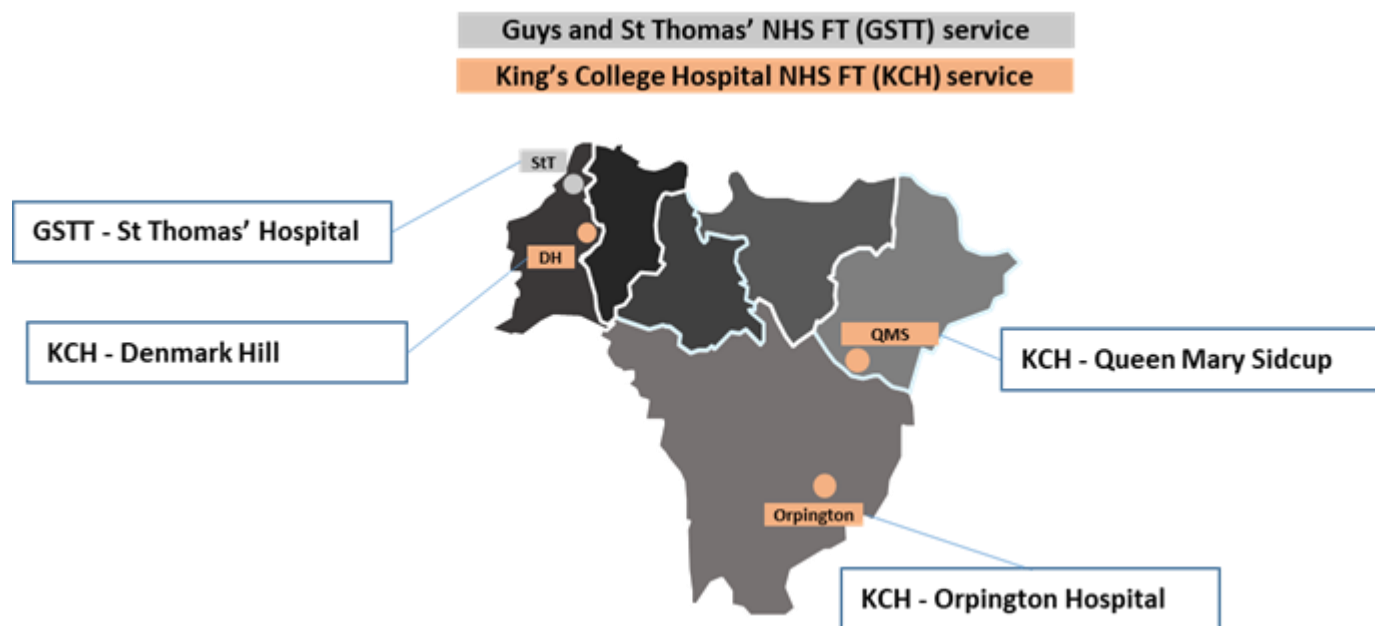
Please can you provide patients with this information when discussing their referral so they can make an informed choice based on the waiting times for an appointment in South East London.

KCH and GSTT are working closely together in order to equalise waiting times and ensure equity of access for patients. As you can see in the table below there are differences in the waiting times across the sites in South East London which patients may not be aware of. This is something we are trying to address and your help with directing patients to the shortest wait where appropriate will help achieve this aim.

Average weeks wait for a new appointment at hospital ophthalmology services: (Please allow a 1–2-week variance in the below waiting times, as they were pulled on the 04 December 2025 and may have changed).

Ophthalmology specialty	GSTT – St Thomas's (weeks wait)	KCH - Denmark Hill (weeks wait)	KCH – Queen Mary's Sidcup (weeks wait)	KCH – Orpington (weeks wait)
Cataract	20	17	16	11
Cornea	13	19	11	10
Medical Retina			**Waiting times at QMS & Orpington for wet AMD are extremely long please consider sending patient to the other sites**	
Glaucoma	30	25	16	No service at this site
Laser (YAG Capsulotomy)	28	20	**52+**	12
Oculoplastics	17	22	23	No service at this site
Squint / Ocular Motility	16	22	**52+**	No service at this site
Vitreoretinal	8	7	9	No service at this site
Paediatric ophthalmology	3	13	17	No service at this site

The map below shows the geographical locations of the four sites, please ensure this information is provided to patients along with the waiting times so they are aware of where they can access services in South East London.

Guys and St Thomas' NHS FT (GSTT) service

King's College Hospital NHS FT (KCH) service

GSTT - St Thomas' Hospital

KCH - Denmark Hill

KCH - Queen Mary Sidcup

KCH - Orpington Hospital

This communication will be sent to you on a monthly basis going forward with updated waiting time information.