

# ORTHOPTIC-LED CLINICS

## Seeing the value

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# Abstract

- The Orthoptic department at Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital established a number of orthoptic-led and multidisciplinary clinics to enable patients to access timely and appropriate care for chronic eye disease.
- One of these clinics is the Glaucoma Stable Monitoring Service (SMS) where orthoptists work at an advanced scope of practice to assess and develop care plans for patients with low-risk Glaucoma based on patient outcomes.
- In the traditional model of care for patients with glaucoma, patients are assessed by an orthoptist, followed by an assessment with an ophthalmologist who then determines the appropriate management plan

# Outcomes

## Patient outcome measures

- 17% patients progressed and were redirected back to consultant clinics for review
- 83% patients were stable without disease progression as diagnosed by the orthoptist and remained under surveillance in the orthoptic-led clinic

## Patient-reported experience measures

- Next steps are to commence collecting patient-reported experience measures for the SMS clinic

## Improved access

- The SMS clinic has improved access to care in specialty consultant-led Glaucoma clinics for patients with complex glaucoma
- Approximately 235 appointments have become available annually in consultant-led glaucoma clinics (590 appointments since inception of SMS clinic in 2018)

## Cost benefits

- Employee-related cost savings of \$9000 per year
- Non-admitted activity-based funding savings of \$1860 per clinic

# Addressing Health Inequities

- Social determinants of health are largely responsible for health inequities according to the World Health Organisation (WHO)<sup>1</sup>
- Glaucoma is a condition that can cause irreversible vision impairment. Certain ethnicities are known to have higher risk of developing glaucoma and therefore vulnerability to permanent vision impairment, including those of Asian, African American and Hispanic background.
- The older population (over 65+ years) and people with diabetes are also at higher risk of developing Glaucoma.
- Often these groups are impacted by social determinants of health as defined by WHO including healthcare access and utilisation, education, economic stability, and social and community contexts.
- The SMS clinic facilitates ongoing monitoring of patients with Glaucoma to ensure early detection of any disease progression in these vulnerable populations to minimise the impacts of permanent vision impairment (both cost to the patient and health system)

<sup>1</sup> WHO Social Determinants of Health - [https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/social-determinants-of-health#tab=tab_1)

# Implementation / Translation to Practice

- Demonstrating the breadth of benefits from patient to system-wide benefits will support translation of this model of care beyond Sydney Eye Hospital.
- To support consistent and wide-spread translation of this model of care into practice, developing endorsed post-graduate advanced practice modules in partnership with key stakeholders.
- Establishing clear pathways, models of care and key partnerships to support integration between primary eye care professionals (i.e. optometrists), orthoptists and ophthalmologists will be integral to reducing health inequities that exist with Glaucoma