

## Project Background

1. A significant number of patients cannot be cared for or monitored in the community, because not all optometrists have digitised slit lamps to send digital photos of the patient's problem for clinicians to review remotely and offer advice.
2. There is no mutually agreed (Ophthalmologist & Optometrist) information portal for management of patients in the community/primary care versus secondary care.
3. Majority of patients referred for surgery/therapeutic management, with problems affecting the front of the eye, are referred to secondary care without photographs of the problem. As a result, majority of these patients have to be seen directly in clinic. This results in huge waiting lists and longer wait times for patients as well as patients coming to harm while waiting.

## Project Outcomes

1. Optometrists digitalisation – All Optometrists who expressed an interest in the pilot study and digitalisation now have the digitalisation kit – Slit lamp adaptors needed
2. Digital health care information in the community for optometrists, GPs and Patients - via a new Tele-Ophthalmology website. Funding applied for but not granted – Hence unable to proceed with this. I hope at some point funding will be granted for this.
3. Listing patients for surgery directly from the community following a review of the digital photographs of the patients pathology - we now have pilot virtual cataract clinics running.

## Next Steps

### Implementation across Wales – The Impact

- a) Improved efficiency of providing eye care both within the primary and secondary care settings.
- b) Decreased waiting times for patients, as a number of them can be seen much earlier in the community and managed there as opposed to waiting months to be seen.
- c) Improved health care outcomes for all patients (R1-R3) and especially R1/USC, due to the resultant inherent efficiency within this project idea.
- d) Improved patient experience - being seen locally at their local optometrist means less travelling time in a less stressful setting compared to coming into secondary care settings.

## Project Aims/Objectives

1. Enabling all optometrists who don't have digital slit lamps to be able to access & utilise digital solutions in order to capture digital photos of anterior segment pathology to accompany all referrals and enable appropriate clinician "signpost" triaging of these referrals.
2. Provide a mutually agreed health care information in the community for optometrists, GPs and Patients, on what can be safely monitored and treated in the community and what needs to be referred in to secondary care - via a new Tele-Ophthalmology website.
3. Listing patients for surgery directly from the community following a review of digital photographs accompanying the referral as well as providing electronic patient information on the operation and digital consent forms.

## Project Impact

1. Optometrists digitalisation – All Optometrists in this pilot study with slit lamp adaptors are able to send in anterior segment referrals with photography. Clinicians can now receive referrals with photographs and as a result will be able to offer advice for therapeutic management in the community, list patients directly for surgery.
2. Digital health care information in the community for optometrists, GPs and Patients - via a new Tele-Ophthalmology website. Funding applied for but not granted – Hopefully once funding is available, the impact will be huge.
3. Listing patients for surgery directly from the community following a review of the digital photographs of the patients pathology - we now have a R&D approved virtual cataract clinics running and a number of patients have been operated on from the virtual cataract clinics. We are able to review 50% more patients in the virtual cataract clinics than in face to face clinics. In addition to this we do not require a clinic room for virtual reviews, hence a clinic room is freed up to be used for another clinic. This has not only more efficient, but results in increased financial savings.

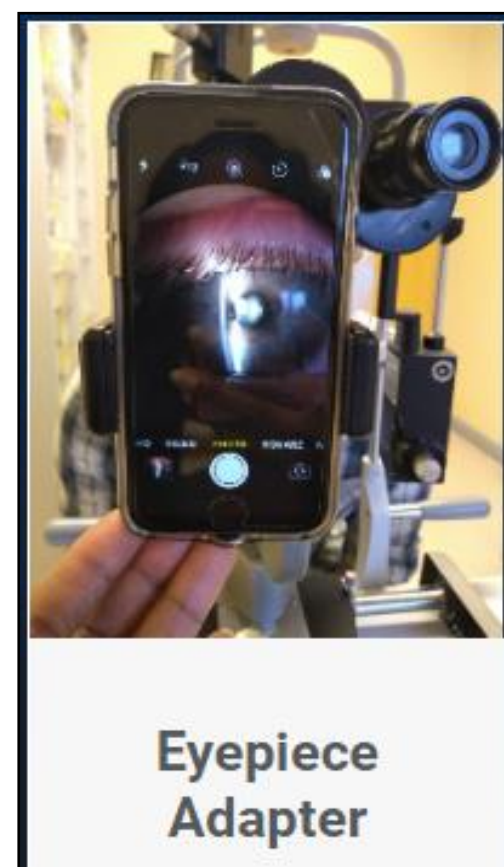
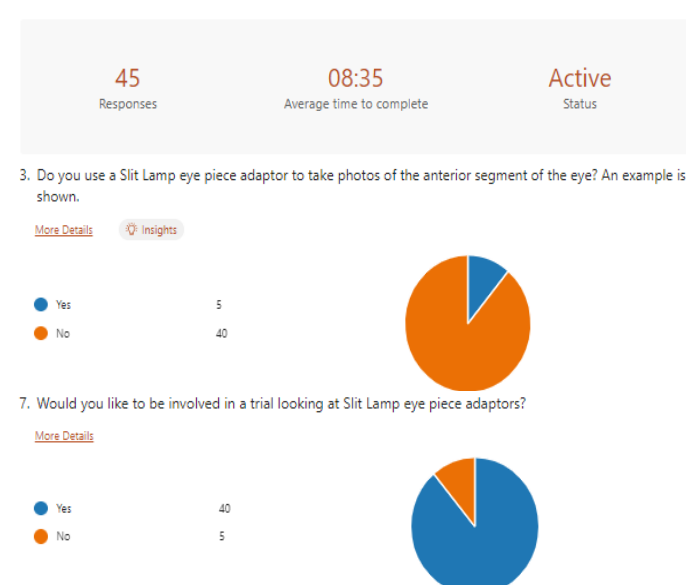
## Project Approach

1. Optometrists Digitalisation – A digital questionnaire sent to the Optometrists enquiring about their opinions and comments on digitalising their slit lamps. Funding applied for and granted for a limited number of optometry practices. Unfortunately the funds could not be used directly due to NHS policy restrictions. As a result, I used my personal funds to obtain the digitisation kits.
2. Digital health care information in the community for optometrists, GPs and Patients - via a new Tele-Ophthalmology website. Funding applied for but not granted.
3. A pilot study was set up & approved by R&D. Liaised with the Directorate manager, medical photographers, and another consultant ophthalmologist to run virtual cataract clinics first and later virtual anterior segment clinics.

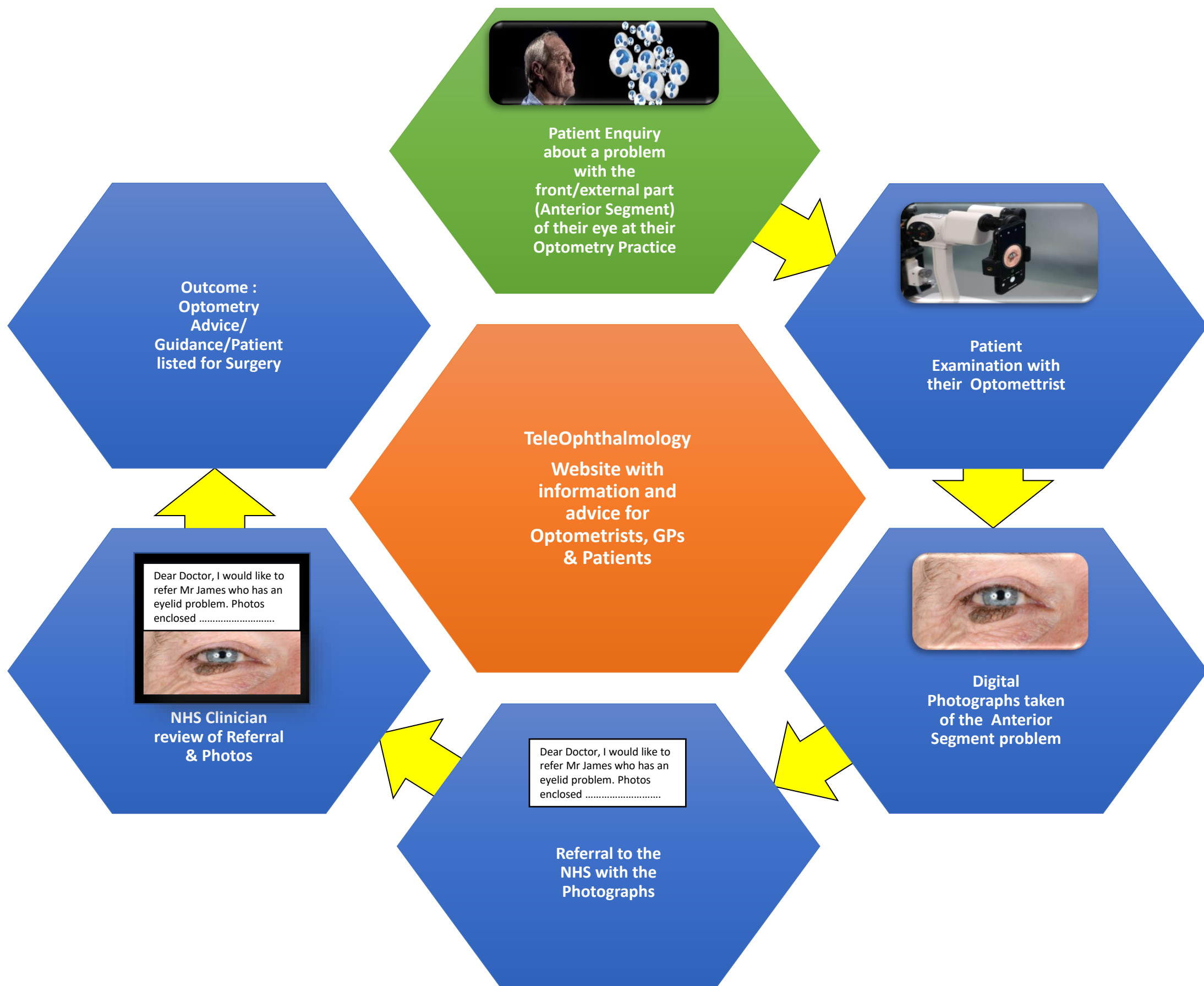
## Key Conclusions

Digitalisation of Healthcare in ophthalmology as well as other specialties is an essential part (not an optional part) of the NHS and needs to be facilitated and incorporated in clinical practice.

### Integrated Eye Care - Optometrists Survey



## A Summary Of The Process



### LEGENDS

- Implemented
- Implemented
- Awaiting Funding