

Glaucoma Digital Evaluation Service (GDEC)

This leaflet is for patients who have been referred to the Glaucoma Digital Evaluation Clinic. It outlines how the service works and what to expect during your initial visit and afterwards. It is for guidance purposes only and does not replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Introduction

We are pleased to tell you that your eye condition is suitable for monitoring by this service. Following some initial tests in the hospital, you will not need to wait to see a clinician and instead you can go home and you will either get a letter or a phone call from the glaucoma clinician explaining the results and any next steps.

What happens in the Glaucoma Digital Evaluation Clinic?

An ophthalmic technician will ask you some questions about your condition and your eyes, and will measure your vision (visual acuity check) and intraocular pressures. The technician will also perform an optical coherence tomography (OCT) scan of your eyes. You will also have a visual field examination. These tests will be explained on the next page. This initial appointment should last no more than 30 minutes. The information gathered from your visit will then be reviewed virtually (or digitally) and you will not need to wait to have an appointment with a clinician in person.

You will not have drops that blur your vision and so it is safe to drive to this appointment. Please bring your spectacles with you.

Please bring a friend or partner to accompany you during the visit, if you wish to.

About your tests

- **Visual acuity check:** If you have glasses for distance vision (i.e., glasses you wear for driving or watching television) you will need to bring these to your appointment. The visual acuity check is done so we can measure your current long-distance vision, and then we can see if there are any changes in your vision.
- **Eye pressure readings:** A machine will measure the pressure of the fluid inside your eye.
- **OCT scan:** OCT is a non-invasive technique used to measure the thickness of the retinal nerve fibre surrounding each optic nerve. It is very similar to an ultrasound but uses light waves rather than sound waves. You will not require eye drops that will blur your vision.
- **Visual field examination:** This examination measures your central and peripheral (side) vision. You will be asked to press a buzzer when you see a series of flashing lights.

What happens next?

A glaucoma clinician will review all of your information and will make a clinical decision about your eyes and your next appointment. You and your GP will receive this information in a letter from the hospital. This may take up to three weeks from your visit.

What happens if there are changes to my eye condition?

If there are any changes in your eye condition, the clinician will attempt to call you to discuss the results over the phone in the first instance. You will then be offered an appointment with the glaucoma consultant or glaucoma specialist. You will always get a letter following your visit, explaining the results and whether any further appointments are needed.

Sources of information

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists. 2016. Ophthalmic Services Guidance: Standards for Virtual Clinic in Glaucoma Care in the NHS Hospital Eye Service. RCO: London

Contacting us

If you need to change or cancel your appointment, please call the Glaucoma Service admin team on: 0118 322 6642.

If you have got a minor eye problem, please seek advice from your GP, optician or pharmacist. If you think your problem might be urgent, please attend Eye Casualty.

Eye Casualty (Reading):	Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm; Sat & Sun & bank holidays 9am-12.30pm; Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day
Eye Casualty: Prince Charles Eye Unit (Windsor):	Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm; Sat 9am-12.30pm; Closed Sun & bank holidays

Outside of Eye Casualty hours, you should telephone your GP's out of hours' service, ring NHS 111 or if you have serious concerns, visit your nearest Emergency Department (A&E).

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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