

Frequently asked questions

How long will the appointment take?

You will be in the department for up to an hour.

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes, you may bring a relative with you to accompany you at your appointment.

Can I drive after?

No. You will have dilating eyedrops that blur your vision, so you will therefore be unable to drive home. Please arrange alternative transport for this appointment.

If treatment is required, will it happen on the first visit?

No. Treatment will be booked within two weeks of your initial referral.

Patient responsibility

If you do not receive an appointment, please ring the department on the number provided. **If you wish to cancel / reschedule, please let us know as soon as possible.**



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

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Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

The Fast Track Patient Pathway



This leaflet explains each step of your journey as a 'fast track' patient of the Macular Service – from initial referral to treatment. This is known as the 'patient pathway'.

Aim of the appointment

The purpose of this appointment is to see if you have Wet AMD that needs urgent treatment.

Before the appointment

One of our admin team will phone you to confirm your appointment and you may get a letter in the post if there is adequate time.

- The appointment is at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Eye Block, Level 3 (use the lifts stairs from Eye Block Level 2).
- Please bring your glasses (near and distance), a list of medication and any recent changes to your general health.

What to expect on the day

Medical history: It is important that you update the clinician on any recent admission to hospital, in particular any heart attacks/strokes within the last three months.

Vision test: We will assess your vision using your distance glasses. This vision test will be different to the one you had at the opticians.

Pupil dilated: We will use some eye drops to allow us to take some clear photos/scans of the back of the eye. They usually take 10-20 minutes to work and may make you more sensitive to light and blur your vision. These effects will wear off after a few hours. It is important you do not drive to your appointment, as you will be unable to drive home.

OCT (photos/scans): Once your pupils have dilated, we will take some photos/scans of the back of the eye.

Diagnosis: The consultant will review the scans/photos and will be able to provide a diagnosis and decide on whether treatment is appropriate.

- You will be given an information leaflet explaining your eye condition
- If treatment is required then you will be given: a drug information leaflet, a blank consent form and aftercare sheet.

Patient information

We will also give you a patient leaflet on your relevant diagnosis. This will enable you to further understand your diagnosis and to explain it to your family.

Low Vision Assessment and Eye Clinic Liaison Officers

Our Sight Loss Advisors, Sarah and Sonya are on hand to assist anyone with difficulty with their vision. They are also able to advise relatives and carers on how to access the support they may need with their Low Vision (e.g. magnifiers, visual aids).

If you would like to speak to Sarah or Sonya please ask a member of staff and they will organise this.

Contact details

For any appointment or non-urgent queries please call: 0118 322 7169 – Select option 2 and then select Option 2 again.

If you have any urgent symptoms, then please attend your nearest eye casualty:

- **Eye Casualty (Reading):** Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm; Sat & Sun & bank holidays 9am-12.30pm; Closed bank holidays.
- **Eye Casualty (Windsor):** Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm; Sat 8.30am-12.30pm; Closed Sun & bank holidays.