Patient information
Timing of your retinal detachment surgery

This information leaflet is for patients who have been diagnosed with retinal detachment. The purpose of this leaflet is to explain about the timing of your retinal detachment surgery.

There are several different types of retinal detachment. The ophthalmologist in this clinic will explain to you which type of detachment you have.

The urgency of your surgery will depend on which particular type of retinal detachment that you have been diagnosed with. If the macula (the highly sensitive central part of the retina responsible for detailed central vision) is still attached when you are examined by the ophthalmologist, then your surgery will be scheduled as a higher priority on the emergency surgery list. This is because we are trying to prevent the macula from detaching and causing further loss of vision in your eye.

If the macula is already detached or “off” by the time we examine your eye, then the timing of your surgery is less urgent. You might be advised to wait at home until we can schedule your surgery. A member of staff will then telephone you at home to advise you when to come in for your surgery. Alternatively, in some cases, your surgery could be booked on a planned surgical list.

Useful contacts for further information
- Vitreo-retinal emergency clinic: 020 7253 3411 ext 2593 (mornings only)
- Mackellar ward: 020 7253 3411 ext 2590 (afternoon and weekends)
Moorfields Direct telephone helpline
Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm, for information and advice on eye conditions and treatments from experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to start their consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of being referred by their GP. Moorfields is committed to fulfilling this right, but if you feel that we have failed to do so, please contact our patient advice and liaison service (PALS) who will be able to advise you further. The PALS team can be contacted on 020 7566 2324/2325 or by email to pals@moorfields.nhs.uk. For more information about your rights under the NHS constitution, please visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs.

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Version: 1
Approved: July 2011
Review date: July 2012