

Patient information

Rapid access macular clinic

What is the rapid access macular clinic and how does it work?

The examination you had at the opticians suggests you may have some damage at your macula (central area of the retina, which is the light sensitive layer at the back of your eye). The macula can become damaged by a build-up of deposits and sometimes abnormal blood vessels can form, which can lead to irreversible sight loss. This macular damage can happen because of aging changes or because of significant short-sightedness.

The service is run at Moorfields Eye Hospital in City Road by specialist trained ophthalmic technicians. You will not see a doctor on the day, but you will have several tests including a sight test that measures how well you see in the distance, an eye pressure check to assess the pressure of your eyes and detailed digital imaging to take pictures of your eye, helping us make a diagnosis.

How long will this appointment take and can I drive to it?

We aim to finish all your tests in one hour. We recommend you do not drive to this appointment. This is because the eye drops we use during the tests will cause blurred vision and make driving any vehicle unsafe. The effects of the drops last approximately four hours.

When will I get my results?

The results of all of these tests will be reviewed by specialists with consultant support. Depending on the test results, you will be given an appointment at Moorfields City Road for an assessment and treatment, or you may be seen in a specialist clinic for further tests.

Research projects

Moorfields is a world-leading centre for eye and vision research. This means that you might be asked to consider joining a clinical research project or trial. If a member of our staff thinks you might meet the specific criteria for a study, they will discuss it with you in detail. All clinical research projects are strictly monitored by

our research department and regulated by national bodies. You will need to give explicit written consent if you decide you would like to take part. If you do not want your health record to be reviewed for the purposes of possible participation in a clinical research study, you can let us know by calling 020 7253 3411 or by emailing moorfields.ig@nhs.net

Your feedback helps us!

Your views on the service are important and can help improve it for others in the future. At the end of the assessment, we will provide you with a feedback form to complete.

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**Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS
Foundation Trust**
City Road, London EC1V 2PD
Phone: 020 7253 3411
www.moorfields.nhs.uk

Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 9pm, Saturday, 9am - 5pm

Information and advice on eye conditions and treatments from experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Phone: 020 7566 2324 or 020 7566 2325

Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net

Moorfields' PALS team provides confidential advice and support to help you with any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available at Moorfields. The PALS team can also advise you on how to make a complaint.

Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to begin 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 – see above for contact details. For more information about your rights under the NHS constitution, please visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs.

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