

Patient information: glaucoma service

Glaucoma screening service

What is the glaucoma service?

Your general practitioner (GP) and/or optometrist has referred you to have your eyes examined to assess whether you might have a condition called glaucoma. Glaucoma affects the nerve at the back of the eye and, if left untreated, can lead to irreversible sight loss.

How does the glaucoma screening service at Moorfields work?

The service is run by three specialist trained ophthalmic practitioners. You will not see a doctor on the day, but you will have several eye tests including:

- Tonometry – eye pressure check.
- Visual fields – a test to evaluate whether there is any sight loss affecting your side vision.
- Digital imaging – two specialist instruments will be used to give a detailed assessment of the appearance of the optic nerve at the back of your eye.

Test results will be reviewed by a consultant eye doctor and you will receive a letter explaining the outcome, which will be copied to your GP.

Depending on the test results, you might be given an appointment at Moorfields for further assessments, or be discharged back to your local optician for annual check-ups.

What do I need to bring with me on the day?

You will need to bring:

- A list of any medications you are taking
- A list of any eye drops you are taking

These will be kept in your hospital notes. In addition, please bring your most recent spectacle prescription, or most recent distance and reading glasses.

How long is the screening appointment?

We aim to finish all your tests in one hour. **Please arrive on time for your appointment as we may not be able to see you if you are late.**

Do I need to bring someone with me?

Occasionally we need to use eye drops to enlarge the pupil of the eyes so that we can get good quality photographs.

These drops can blur your vision for between two and six hours. You may go home by public transport, but it is essential that you do not drive on the day of your appointment. We advise that you bring someone along on the day to escort you home.

Your comments

At the end of the assessment we will provide you with a feedback form so that you can let us know about your experience. Your views are important to us and help us to improve the service for other patients.

Further information

For further information, please see our patient information video at: www.moorfields.nhs.uk/content/screening-and-stable-monitoring-service

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Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345
Monday–Friday, 8.30am–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 more information about your rights under the NHS constitution, visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs

