



Patient information: for patients, families and carers

Safeguarding adults

Moorfields Eye Hospital is committed to the safety and welfare of vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's business and it is important that we all work together to stop adult abuse and neglect.

Who is at risk of abuse?

Some adults are less able to protect themselves than others, and some have difficulty making their wishes and feelings known. This may make them vulnerable to abuse.

An adult at risk is defined as someone 18 years of age or over who is/or may be in need of care services and; is/or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

What is abuse?

Abuse can take many forms and can include:

- **Physical abuse** - being hit, kicked, locked in a room.
- **Sexual abuse** - being made to take part in sexual activity when the adult has not given or is not able to give consent.
- **Psychological abuse** - such as being shouted at, ridiculed or bullied.
- **Financial or material abuse** - theft, fraud, exploitation, or misuse of someone else's finances.
- **Neglect** - not meeting a person's physical, medical or emotional needs.
- **Modern slavery** - includes human trafficking and forced labour.
- **Domestic abuse** - includes psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse. This may have been carried out by someone who is a family member or is, or has been, in a close relationship with the person being abused.
- **Self-neglect** - when an adult refuses care which has a significant impact on their wellbeing.

