

Patient Information Leaflet

Post-Operative Cataract Review in Primary Care Optometry

Your review appointment following your cataract surgery

Some patients who have undergone cataract surgery without any complications are now being given the opportunity to have their follow-up review closer to home in a local optometry practice. You have been identified as a patient who would be suitable for this. You will receive the same level of care and undergo the same type of tests as you would in hospital.

What you need to do

Contact an optometry practice of your choice and ask for a “cataract surgery review appointment”. This appointment should take place between 6 and 12 weeks (no longer than 12 weeks) after your cataract surgery. If you do not attend within 12 weeks it will be assumed that you do not require further post-operative care and you will be automatically discharged from the cataract service.

Most optometrists in Northern Ireland are providing this service. If your chosen optometrist does not provide it they will direct you to the other practices in your area that do provide it.

What will happen at the appointment

Your optometrist will examine your eyes to ensure there are no problems following your surgery. They will measure your vision and test you for your glasses prescription as there is often a change in your prescription after cataract surgery. If a change is found you may have your glasses updated at this stage, unless you decide not to or the optometrist advises otherwise.

What will happen after the appointment?

The optometrist will send the details of your examination to the hospital eye service. This is important to ensure the operation has been successful and has worked for you. If the optometrist finds any complications connected to your surgery they will arrange for you to have a further appointment at the hospital.

Do you have to pay for this?

Your review appointment will be paid for by the health service (even if you normally pay for sight tests). There *may* be a charge for additional investigations recommended by the optometrist but this would be discussed with you in advance. There will only be help with the cost of new glasses if you are normally eligible for this.

What if you have a problem before your review appointment?

If you notice any changes in your sight (e.g. blurred vision), or develop a red or painful eye, at any time before your review appointment **please contact the centre where you had your surgery (numbers below)**. Your local optometrist cannot see you within 6 weeks of having had eye surgery.

Downe Hospital: **028 4483 8024** Mon–Fri 8am–5pm

Mid Ulster Hospital: **028 7936 6886** Mon–Fri 8.30am–4.30 pm

South Tyrone Hospital: **028 3756 7290** Mon–Fri 8am–4pm

If your surgical centre is closed, please contact:

- 1) Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast Ward 28 call 02896150393 or
- 2) Altnagelvin Area Hospital call switchboard 028 7134 5171 and ask for Eye Casualty.

Please note that you cannot attend eye casualty at either Royal Victoria Hospital or Altnagelvin Area Hospital without an appointment.