

Contact lens clinic

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at ndht.pals@nhs.net.

What happens in the contact lens clinic?

Firstly, an optometrist will do some tests to see if contact lenses will be beneficial for you. Then you will be fitted with contact lenses if you are eligible. We will then see you on a regular basis to check:

- the health of the front of the eye
- the contact lens condition, fit, and power
- how you are getting on with the contact lenses

You still need to attend for a regular sight test with a local optometrist if you are being seen in the contact lens clinic.

Who is eligible for hospital contact lenses?

You **may** be eligible for hospital contact lenses if:

- you have a very high glasses prescription
- you are unable to achieve an adequate level of vision in your glasses, and we think you will get better vision with contact lenses
- you need to wear a contact lens to make your eye comfortable
- you need a contact lens to block the vision from one eye
- for cosmetic reasons (e.g. if your eye is disfigured)

If you are not eligible for hospital contact lenses but would like to wear contact lenses, then this should be discussed with your optometrist.

Do I have to pay for my contact lenses?

There is a charge for some contact lenses that varies on a yearly basis. You **may be exempt from paying if:**

- you are a child
- you or your partner receives:
 - income support
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - pension credit (guarantee credit)
 - tax credit/named on a valid tax credit exemption certificate
 - Universal credit/ named on a valid universal credit award letter
 - or if you are named on a HC2/HC3 certificate (for a HC3 certificate the charge will be reduced by the amount stated)

Please bring evidence of these financial entitlements to your contact lens appointment.

When do I get my contact lenses?

The contact lens fitting process takes place over several appointments. The length depends on the type and complexity of the contact lens needed.

How to be referred

You can be referred by:

- an ophthalmologist (eye doctor)
- an orthoptist (specialist in eye movement disorders such as lazy eye and squint)
- an optometrist (specialist who can assess vision and eye health. They can prescribe glasses or contact lenses if needed)
- a GP

Further information

Please contact the Optometry Department on 01271 311714 for additional information.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

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