



Pentacam Clinic

Information for parents from the Pentacam Clinic

Your child has been referred to the Pentacam Clinic. We hope this leaflet answers some of the questions you may have about their appointment. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to a member of your child's healthcare team.

What happens at the Pentacam Clinic?

At the clinic we will assess your child's vision, before taking a picture of their eye with the Pentacam. Your child will not have drops at this appointment.

What is a Pentacam?

A Pentacam is a special camera that takes multiple photos of the front of the eye (anterior segment). It creates a 3D image, allowing us to check the shape and thickness of your child's cornea. The cornea is the clear, dome-shaped part at the front of the eye.

What happens with the images?

The Corneal team will review the images, and decide whether your child needs:

- face-to-face follow-up in the Corneal team clinic
- repeated imaging for virtual consultant review (results will be sent by letter); or
- no further review.

The team will send you a letter in the next few weeks. The letter will explain your child's treatment plan.

Why is this needed?

We have decided to offer this service to children who have high levels of astigmatism (rugby ball shaped eyes) to provide baseline imaging of the shape of their eye(s). The baseline image is helpful in case a child returns to us for treatment later in life.

People with high levels of astigmatism may go on to develop a condition called Keratoconus. People with this condition have thin corneas, which can bulge. Keratoconus causes some distorted vision, but it is treatable with glasses and contact lenses. However, some patients may need an operation. We can use images taken with a Pentacam to detect this condition early.

Why are clinics only at Kent and Canterbury Hospital?

There is only one machine in the Trust, which is kept at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

What should I do if I need to cancel or rearrange my child's appointment?

To cancel or rearrange your appointment, please phone 01227 868615.

References

- US OCULUS Pentacam (<https://www.pentacam.com/us/start.html>)
- Zhao SH, Berkawitz C, Laurenti K, et al. Evaluation of parameters for early detection of pediatric keratoconus. BMC Ophthalmology 2024; 24: Article number 43. (<https://bmcophthalmol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12886-024-03714-0#:~:text=A%20high%20likelihood%20of%20keratoconus,or%20those%20with%20subclinical%20disea>)
- Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Astigmatism. (<https://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/eye-conditions/astigmatism#Summary>)
- Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Keratoconus. (<https://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/eye-conditions/keratoconus>)

[Web sites last accessed 21st October 2025]

What do you think of this leaflet?

We welcome feedback, whether positive or negative, as it helps us to improve our care and services.

If you would like to give us feedback about this leaflet, please fill in our short online survey. Either scan the QR code below, or use the web link. We do not record your personal information, unless you provide contact details and would like to talk to us some more.

Giving feedback about this leaflet



<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MDOBU4/>

If you would rather talk to someone instead of filling in a survey, please call the Patient Voice Team.

- **Patient Voice Team**
Telephone: 01227 868605
Email (ekhuft.patientvoice@nhs.net)

This leaflet has been produced with and for patients.

Please let us know:

- If you have any accessibility needs; this includes needing a hearing loop or wanting someone to come with you to your appointment.
- If you need an interpreter.
- If you need this information in another format (such as Braille, audio, large print or Easy Read).

You can let us know this by:

- Visiting the Trust web site (<https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/ais>).
- Calling the number at the top of your appointment letter.
- Adding this information to the Patient Portal (<https://pp.ekhuft.nhs.uk/login>).
- Telling a member of staff at your next appointment.

Any complaints, comments, concerns or compliments, please speak to a member of your healthcare team. Or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 01227 783145 or email (ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net).

Patients should not bring large sums of money or valuables into hospital. Please note that East Kent Hospitals accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property, unless the property has been handed into Trust staff for safe-keeping.

Further patient information leaflets are available via the East Kent Hospitals' web site (<https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patient-information>).

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