



Virtual diabetic retinopathy: outpatient clinic

Information for patients from the Ophthalmology Department

Thank you for coming to your appointment today at the Eye Clinic.

What happens after my appointment?

One of the following may happen after your appointment.

- You may be asked to come back to the hospital outpatient Photographic Diabetic Retinopathy Clinic (the time and date will be noted in your results). This will be because your diabetic retinopathy / maculopathy is stable, but not at a level yet where you can go back to your local Diabetic Eye Screening Programme.
- You may be discharged back to the care of your local Diabetic Eye Screening Programme because the level of your Diabetic Retinopathy / Maculopathy has improved, or is unlikely to get any worse.
- You may be referred for a face to face consultation with a retinal specialist and need further tests. This may be because your condition has got worse, or that the images taken during your appointment did not provide enough information about the condition of your eyes. It may also be that another eye condition has been seen which needs further investigation.

Your results letter will explain which of the above is relevant to you.

What do I need to know about my dilation eye drops?

The eye drops given to you to dilate (open up) your pupils are Tropicamide 1% and Phenylephrine 2.5%. The following are normal reactions to the dilating drops.

- Blurred vision and sensitivity to bright light (you may find it helpful to wear sunglasses after your appointment).
- Temporary stinging and a dry mouth after using the eye drops.

- The effects of the drops can last between two and four hours but can be up to six hours, so you should not drive or operate heavy machinery until your sight returns to normal and your eyes are comfortable.

If you have any of the following reactions / symptoms you should go to your local Emergency Department immediately

Very rarely the drops can cause a sudden dramatic rise in pressure within your eye (known as acute glaucoma), this will need to be treated quickly in an eye unit. The symptoms of this include:

- pain or severe discomfort in your eyes, with a redness of the white in your eyes
- constant blurred sight, sometimes with rainbow halos around lights
- nausea (feeling sick) and vomiting.

Further information

- NHS: Screening tests for you and your baby (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/screening-tests-for-you-and-your-baby>)

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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