

Enfield community ophthalmology service

Information for patients

What is the Enfield community ophthalmology service?

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust has developed a community ophthalmology service to improve the experience and care for Enfield patients.

This service is run by both trusts' highly qualified and experienced multi-disciplinary team of consultants, nurse specialists, orthoptists and optometrists.

Our community eye clinics

The service is provided at the following clinic locations:

- **Chase Farm Hospital**
127 The Ridgeway, Enfield,
EN2 8JL
- **North Middlesex University Hospital**
Sterling Way, London,
N18 1QX

Who can access this service?

The service is for adults and children with non-urgent ophthalmic conditions such as glaucoma, cataract, watery eyes, dry eyes and others. The services will be delivered in an out-patient setting in one of the above community locations above.

How can patients access the service?

Your GP will need to refer you to the service through the Enfield Referral Management Service. You will be offered a choice of clinic locations.

Following a referral, the hospital will contact you to arrange an appointment. Please let us know as soon as possible should you need to cancel or change your appointment. If you do not let us know in advance that you are unable to attend your appointment, you may be discharged back to the care of your GP.

What are the benefits?

The community ophthalmology service will provide fast and efficient assessment and treatment clinics closer to your home.

Arrival at the clinic

When you arrive at the clinic, please check in with staff at the reception desk. Please bring your appointment letter with you.

Tests and procedures

You will first be seen by a nurse who will carry out a distance vision test (called a visual acuity eye test). You will be asked to read from a board with letters on it, using each eye in turn.

Clinic staff will look through your records and review your referral letter and any previous entries to see if you require further tests before you see the ophthalmologist (eye doctor). Tests may be carried out by nurses as well as orthoptists (trained allied health professionals).

You may then be given eye drops to dilate your pupils ready for examination. The drops take at least 20 minutes to take effect and can sometimes sting a little or leave you with slightly blurred eyesight for four hours. We recommend that you do not drive while your sight is blurred.

Waiting times in the clinic

In order to minimise the number of visits you have to make to the community clinic, we try to carry out all the tests you need during one visit.

If you do require other tests, they may take some time and will involve some waiting. The amount of time will vary. We do all we can in order to give you the best possible outcome. We also try to ensure each patient is seen as quickly as possible, but please remember that there may be some waiting between tests and a wait before you see the doctor.

Every effort is made to make your waiting time at our clinic as short and as comfortable as possible.

What to bring with you

When you come to the community eye clinic, please remember to bring the following with you to ensure that we can complete all necessary investigations:

- a list of your current medications
- your current glasses
- an optician's report if you have one
- sunglasses – you may need these when you leave

- a light snack and something to keep you occupied during the times you are waiting.

You should consider bringing someone with you to ensure you can safely make your way home in case your sight is slightly blurred after your appointment.

Our team and contacts

You can contact our teams as follows (please contact the clinic at which you will be seen):

- **Chase Farm Hospital**
Phone: 020 3758 2038
- **North Middlesex University Hospital**
Phone: 020 8887 3935

Changing or cancelling your appointment

To change or cancel your appointment, you can contact our referral centre teams:

- **Chase Farm Hospital**
Phone: 020 8375 1907
- **North Middlesex University Hospital**
Phone: 020 8887 3663/3664

Joint service provided by:

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust
North Middlesex University Hospital

This leaflet is also available in large print. If you need this leaflet in another format – for example Braille, a language other than English or audio – please ask a member of staff.

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