



Information for
patients and carers

Low Vision Support Service

What happens at a Low Vision Aid Appointment



Excellent
care with
compassion

Surgery Division – Orthoptic and Optometry Department

What is a low vision aid clinic?

A low vision aid clinic is where patients with visual impairment (vision which cannot be improved with glasses or contact lenses) can be assessed to maximise the use of their remaining vision. You do not have to be registered as visually impaired to access this service.

A low vision aid assessment involves working with your existing vision and assessing your visual ability to perform daily living tasks such as:

- Reading
- Cooking
- Going shopping
- Organising medicines
- Hobbies
- Problems with glare

What happens at a low vision assessment?

We will assess your vision for near and distance and show you different types of magnifiers which may help. The different types of magnifiers can be:

- Illuminated or non-illuminated
- Handheld or stand magnifiers
- Hands free magnifiers
- Telescopes

We can also advise you about

- Being registered as visually impaired
- Glare
- Lighting
- Technology such as tablets, phones, computers, and audio books.
- Non-optical aids

The Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO)

After you have seen the low vision aid specialist you will be offered to meet with our hospital ECLO (Eye Clinic Liaison Officer).

The ECLO offers advice and information such as:

- Counselling
- Charles Bonnet Syndrome (visual hallucinations following vision loss)
- Symbol cane / white cane training
- Access to employment and education
- Benefits checks
- Various services and local support groups for the visually impaired
- Offer a **Living with Sight Loss (LWSL) course**

How do I get referred for a Low Vision Aid appointment?

- GP
- Optician
- Ophthalmologist (eye doctor)
- ECLO (eye clinic liaison officer)
- Self-refer yourself by contacting us directly

All the low vision aids are given as a long-term loan, we advise that any low vision aids you do not use should be returned to the low vision clinic.

Low vision aid clinics

- Royal Preston Hospital
- Lancashire Eye Centre Chorley

Please be aware that a low vision aid appointment can last **for up to 1 hour**.

Please bring **your own glasses** and **any existing magnifiers**, plus **any examples of tasks** that you would like magnification to assist with.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Low Vision Support Service
Lancashire Eye Centre
Preston Road
Chorley
PR7 1PP

Orthoptic Department: **01772 522417** (Monday to Friday between 8.30am to 4.40pm). If the orthoptists are not available when you call, there is a 24 hour answerphone where you may leave a message.

Appointments: **01772 524010**

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

Royal National Institute for the Blind

Helpline: 0303 123 9999

Website: www.rnib.org.uk

Galloway's Society for the Blind

Howick House, Howick Park, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0LS

Tel: 01772 744148

Blind Veterans UK

Blind Veterans UK, 126 Fairlie Road, Slough, SL1 4PY

Tel: 0300 111 22 33

Web Site: www.blindveterans.org.uk

Lancashire County Council

Sensory Support Team

Tel: 0300 123 6720

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دوسری زبانوں اور بڑی اگر آپ کوہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لئے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو
یہی چھپا میں یہ ابی دست ہو یسکت ہے براے مہر بیان پوے یچھدی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعه بأحرف كبيرة وبلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه لمعلومات يُرجى أن تطلب
أخرى يمكن تو فير هذه المعلومات

Department: Orthoptic and Optometry

Division: Surgery (Head & Neck)

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