

A photograph of a woman in profile, looking through a slit lamp microscope. She is wearing a white headband. The image is partially obscured by blue geometric shapes.

Ophthalmology

First Outpatient Appointment



Guidance for patients

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place.

Referral to treatment waiting times are available at:

[Ophthalmology – Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust – My Planned Care NHS](#)

Ophthalmology

In the Ophthalmology Department, we offer specialist clinics and surgery to examine and treat all eye conditions.

Ophthalmic assessments and treatments are offered in a variety of locations. The main Ophthalmology Department is at Harrogate District Hospital, where we offer surgery in the [Ophthalmic Day Surgery](#).

Outreach services are also offered at Harrogate District Hospital, in the Phoenix Unit, Briary Wing. Department and specialist clinics are provided in Zone 6 of the Outpatient Department. We also offer outreach clinics at Ripon Community Hospital.

We provide clinics for a wide range of conditions and problems, including:

- Urgent referrals (from the Emergency Department)
- Glaucoma
- Macular degeneration
- Medical retina conditions
- Diabetes
- Minor operations and laser treatment
- Angiography
- Squints
- Many other conditions

The Ophthalmic Day Surgery Department is located on the ground floor of the hospital. This is where our Ophthalmic Surgeons perform various operations including cataract surgery and glaucoma surgery.

The Ophthalmology Department also consists of an Orthoptic team who work alongside our Consultants and provide assessment and treatment for various eye conditions affecting both children and adults.

In the department, there is also an Optician team who perform refraction tests and low vision assessments.

Should you require surgery

Having surgery is a big moment in life and it is normal to feel anxious about it. You can find general advice on what you can do to get the best outcome from your surgery at:

<https://www.hdft.nhs.uk/content/uploads/2022/04/FitterBetterSooner2018web.pdf>

What to do if your health is deteriorating

You can get information and help about a variety of common problems and find useful ways you can help yourself from the Harrogate Health Hub website at <https://www.harrogatehealthhub.co.uk>

Urgent Health Advice

For urgent health advice about physical or mental health when it's not an emergency, please call 111 from any landline or mobile phone. You can also visit www.nhs.uk. The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Life Threatening Emergencies

For something life threatening – severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or chest pains – please dial 999.

GP surgeries are still open

If you experience an increase in pain, inability to weight bear on this limb or a significant reduction in mobility, you should in the first instance contact your General Practitioner for review and advice.

GP surgeries are still open and are working differently to how they did before the COVID-19 pandemic. GP practices continue to make best use of telephone, online and video consultations. Face-to-face appointments are still being given to those who need it.

When you phone or use an online form to contact your GP surgery to make an appointment, you will be asked some questions which are designed to help staff guide you to the most appropriate clinical person to help you with your condition. This could be a nurse, clinical pharmacist, physician's associate, GP or paramedic.

[Find a GP in the region](#)

Contact us

If you want to discuss any of the above please call: 01423 885959 or email hdft.hello@nhs.net