

Ophthalmology

Our ophthalmology department provides first class eye care and surgical services for a wide range of eye conditions.

Introduction

The Covid 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. This document provides you with information on how you can support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care.

Guidance for Patients

Services we provide include:

- Age-related Macular Degeneration
- Cataract
- Cataract Surgery
- Cornea
- Diabetic Medical Retina
- External Eye Disease
- Glaucoma
- Laser treatment (YAG capsulotomy)
- Low Vision
- Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Oculoplastics /Orbits/Lacrimal
- Other Medical Retina
- Squint/Ocular Motility
- Paediatrics
- Vitreoretinal



My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Cataract Surgery

Upon discussion with your clinician, you might be able to choose between general and local anaesthetic including eye-drop anaesthesia

Covid-19

A recent Covid-19 infection increases your risk of lung complications or death if you have an operation under general anaesthetic. This risk reduces the longer it is since the infection. After 7 weeks the risk is no higher than someone who has not had Covid-19. However, if you still have the symptoms the risk remains high. The risk also depends on your age, overall health and the type of surgery you are having.

You must follow instructions to self-isolate and take a Covid-19 test before your operation. If you have had Covid-19 up to 7 weeks before the operation you should discuss the risks and benefits of delaying it with your surgeon.

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

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. You can access further information on Essex well-being service on the link below:

<https://www.essexwellbeingservice.co.uk/>

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 or a significant change in your symptoms or eyesight, 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.



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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 with your condition. This could be a nurse, clinical pharmacist, physician's associate, GP or paramedic.

A list of GP practices with relevant contact details are available on the following website:

[Find a GP - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Contact Details

Appointments: 01279444455

Emergency Eye Triage Line 01279444455

Please note we will not give explicit clinical advice via telephone/email until you have been reviewed within clinic by a consultant first.

