

# What is the Low Vision Clinic?

## Patient Information

Ophthalmology Service

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## **What is the Low Vision Clinic?**

The Low Vision Clinic (LVC) is for patients who have a reduction in vision which cannot be treated by just wearing glasses. The most common conditions we see are: Age Related Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma, Cataracts, Diabetic Retinopathy and Nystagmus. However, we can see anyone with any condition which affects the level of vision.

## **Why do I need to come to the LVC?**

The main purpose of coming to the Low Vision Clinic is so that we can provide you with advice and techniques to maximise the use of your remaining sight, to allow you to keep doing what you like to do such as reading, shopping, getting out and about, cooking, hobbies etc. and maintain your independence.

Where necessary we can also provide magnifiers to help maximise your vision. We also provide additional support in understanding your eye condition and coming to terms with your vision loss. We have lots of links and can make onward referrals or signpost you to other people who can also help.

## **My eyesight isn't that bad, why do I need to come?**

If you have a diagnosed eye condition and it is known that your sight is unlikely to improve and may deteriorate with time it is important to come to the LV clinic as early as possible. Quite often in early stages magnifiers are not needed but we can give you lots of advice on how to make things easier and maximise the vision you do have. This will allow you to keep doing what you want to do and maintain your independence for longer.

This also means that should your vision deteriorate over time, you already have a point of contact who you know can help you.

Should you need a weak magnifier, it also means that over time it is easier to gradually work through the magnifiers than to start with a

strong one. By learning to using magnifiers gradually we are able to maximise your vision for much longer.

## **My eye sight is very poor, are you able to help?**

Very few people with significantly reduced vision cannot be helped at all through the Low Vision Clinic.

We will need to do a full assessment of how your condition affects you. Sometimes even when magnifiers are not suitable we can still offer lots of advice on how to make things easier.

## **How do I get to the Low Vision Clinic?**

Ask your Ophthalmologist or nurse for a referral to the LVC at your consultation. Your optician and GP can also refer you and if you know your diagnosis you can also self-refer.

The Low Vision Clinic is based at:

Boston House Eye Unit  
Frog Lane  
Wigan  
WN6 7LB

and

Leigh Infirmary  
The Avenue  
Leigh  
WN7 1HS

Our contact number is: 01942 822310

Please use this space to write notes or reminders.

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## Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

## Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager  
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary  
Wigan Lane  
Wigan  
WN1 2NN

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## Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:



1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

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## How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

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This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request.

For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

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