

# Coming to the Low Vision Clinic

## Patient Information

Orthoptic Services



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:  
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

Author ID: KW  
Leaflet ref: Orth 022  
Version: 7  
Leaflet title: Coming to the Low Vision Clinic  
Last review: July 2022  
Expiry date: July 2024



## What is a Low Vision Assessment?

The purpose of a low vision assessment is to work out the best way of using the vision of someone whose sight cannot be improved by medical treatment or ordinary spectacles. This is often achieved using magnifying aids of some kind or by better use of lighting.

## What do I do when I arrive?

Please report to the Orthoptic Department, Entrance B, Second Floor, Wigan Health Centre, Frog Lane, Wigan. WN6 7LB.

## COVID-19

Due to current restrictions you will be required to have your temperature tested on arrival at the department and you will be required to wear a mask where possible.

**Please do not attend if you or anyone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19. Please contact us to rearrange your appointment.**

Please do not arrive more than 5 minutes prior to your appointment to minimise waiting times.

You may still bring one accompanying person with you who must also follow the above advice.

## **What to bring to the appointment**

Always bring your spectacles even if you find them of no use, together with any magnifiers that you use or have been given. It is a good idea to bring along examples of tasks you are having difficulty with. This may be a particular size print or an activity such as sewing or knitting. Alternatively make a list of the things you are having problems with.

## **Can I bring someone with me?**

Yes, we are very happy for you to bring a relative, friend or carer with you.

## **What happens during your visit?**

A Low Vision Therapist will assess you and discuss the implications of your poor sight with you. After testing your vision he/she will suggest ways to improve your ability to read, write and undertake other activities that you may be having difficulty with.

If magnifying devices help, you will be shown the best way to use them. They will then be loaned to you for use at home.

We will also refer you to other services that may be of benefit to you if you wish. Please note most magnifying aids are not in the form of glasses.

**Your appointment will last approximately forty five minutes.**

In most cases you will be followed up about three months after your initial visit, this may be by phone call or a return visit. Some people may need to be followed up before this time.

After your assessment you will be given your Low Vision therapist's name and contact number for future reference.

### **Is there a charge?**

There is no charge for the assessment, or any aids issued to you provided that you are a registered NHS patient of Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Eye Department.

### **What we ask of you**

If you are unable to attend your appointment, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can arrange another time suitable for you.

If you are coming by hospital transport (i.e. ambulance) please contact the Low Vision Clinic on 01942 822310 before contacting your GP to book this, please ensure you have visited your optician within the last twelve months. If you have not, then the low vision assessment may not be accurate.

### **For further information**

Please contact:

Low Vision Clinic Entrance B, Wigan Health Centre, Frog Lane,  
Wigan WN6 7LB

Telephone 01942 822310

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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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