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Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

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# Glaucoma Assessment Clinic

## Ophthalmology Department



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## Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty.

If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email [asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net](mailto:asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net). If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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## Further information

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the eye unit helpline or appointment line:

- Helpline **01784 884402**
- Appointments **01784 884155**
- Email - [asp-tr.ophthalmologyclinicaloff@nhs.net](mailto:asp-tr.ophthalmologyclinicaloff@nhs.net)
- Letter - Ashford Eye Secretaries, Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3AA.

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The Hospital Eye Service is currently under a lot of pressure to see new patients in a timely manner, so we now offer a Glaucoma Assessment Clinic for your initial appointment with us to help reduce the time you wait to be seen for diagnosis and treatment.

These clinics have proved effective in other NHS hospitals and are a very efficient way of providing as many patients as possible with the best care available.

## What is the Glaucoma Assessment Clinic?

The **Glaucoma Assessment Clinic** or **GAC** is a streamlined way to assess whether or not you have glaucoma. We can then decide if you require treatment or monitoring in the Hospital Eye Service or if it is safe to discharge you back to the care of your optometrist. It reduces waiting times to be seen for your first appointment in the eye clinic and ensures you have assessment and treatment within an appropriate time frame.

## What happens at the GAC?

1. A nurse or HCA will check your distance vision and eye pressure and go through a quick questionnaire.
2. We will ask you to complete a visual field test - **please read important information on the next page.**
3. We will dilate your pupils - **please do not drive to the appointment.**

4. We will take scans and photographs of your eyes.
5. A doctor will review your records and send you a letter which is also copied to your GP. This will advise if any further assessment or treatment is required. The review of your records won't be on the same day as your visit but normally within a few weeks of your attendance - don't worry if your letter doesn't arrive straightaway, in some cases it can take 6-8 weeks to arrive.

### **Important Information for Visual Field Testing**

The Visual Field test is a very important part of the glaucoma assessment and can take between 15-30 minutes to complete.

- We need to make sure that you are sitting comfortably - please inform the staff member conducting the test if you are in any discomfort at all.
- Your chin will be on a chinrest and your forehead must touch the bar at the top. Incorrect positioning will result in an unreliable test.
- One eye is tested at a time (we will cover the other eye).
- A lens will be placed in front of the eye we are testing, and you should be able to see the light clearly - please inform the person conducting the test if the light is not clear.
- You must always concentrate on the orange target light in the machine (blinking is allowed).

- Small flashes will appear in the bowl at different light intensities, you will press a button in your hand when you see one.
- You must not look around for these small lights. If you look around during the test the results will be unreliable.
- If you wear contact lenses, we may need you to remove them for the test so please bring glasses with you.

### **What are the advantages of the GAC?**

- More appointment slots are available which means that you will be seen and managed faster than waiting to be seen in a face-to-face clinic.
- You will have a photograph and scans of your optic nerves as part of your medical records along with the visual field tests. It will improve the quality of data we have for diagnosis and analyzing any progression of glaucoma and assist us to make decisions on preserving your eyesight.

**We are looking forward to seeing you in our Glaucoma Assessment Clinic.**