



What to expect at your child's eye clinic appointment

Information for parents and carers

This leaflet describes what you and your child can expect from your visit to the paediatric (children) eye clinic. It will help you prepare for the appointment. If you would like further information or have any questions, please ask your nurse or doctor.

Please note: all children under the age of 16 should be accompanied to their appointment by a parent or guardian.

What will happen during the appointment?

Our team of eye health professionals will carry out tests and assessments on the day of your visit:

- Firstly, an Orthoptist (eye specialist) will measure your child's vision or perform a vision assessment. They will check eye movement and assess for strabismus (squint).
- An Optometrist (specialist in eye abnormalities) will assess the need for glasses.
- Finally, an Ophthalmologist (eye doctor) will look at all the information gathered from the team and review the medical notes. They will complete a full medical eye examination and discuss with you the condition and any treatment that may be needed.

Waiting times in the clinic

- We try to reduce the number of times that you need to come into the clinic. We aim to carry out all the tests that are required during one visit.
- Please allow a few hours for the appointment, as you will have to wait in between tests.
- The waiting time will vary from patient to patient, but you could be in the clinic most of the morning or most of the afternoon.
- You may notice that a patient who arrived after you is called before you. This may be because the relevant health professional, or equipment for their test, has become available.
- We make sure we see each patient quickly, according to their medical needs.
- As part of the eye assessment, eye drops will be used to dilate (widen) the pupils. The drops take a minimum of 30 minutes to take effect and can sting a little, although this wears off quite quickly. Sight can remain blurry for up to four hours after the drops have been put in.



What to bring with you

So that we can complete all the necessary investigations, **you must bring** the following items to the eye clinic with you:

- A list of current medications
- Current glasses
- An optician's report (if you have one available)
- Food, toys, or books to help entertain your child, while you are waiting

Changing or cancelling your appointment

If you would like to change or cancel your appointment, please call the Outpatient Access Centre on 020 7288 5511.

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Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please email whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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Whittington Health NHS Trust
Magdala Avenue
London
N19 5NF
Phone: 020 7272 3070
www.whittington.nhs.uk

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