

Glaucoma Virtual Clinic - Information for Patients

What is a Glaucoma Virtual Clinic?

As our population ages, there is an increasing requirement for routine follow-up appointments for those patients with ocular hypertension, suspected glaucoma or stable glaucoma. This has led to demand exceeding capacity and a subsequent rise in waiting times. In order to ensure those patients at low-risk are seen in a timely manner, a new Glaucoma Virtual Clinic has been implemented within the Community Eye Service. You have been selected for this clinic as your condition has previously been stable and is suitable for monitoring.

What will happen during my visit to the Glaucoma Virtual Clinic?

You will be seen in the Community Eye Service clinic at Townside Primary Care Centre in the usual way. You will be seen by a trained member of the Glaucoma Team, who will ask you some questions about your general health and your eye condition, check your vision, assess your visual fields, capture images of the nerve behind the eye and check your eye pressure. These tests should take no longer than 30 minutes. You will not have drops that blur your vision so it is safe to drive to this appointment.

Will I see a doctor today?

No, you will not be seen by a doctor on the day. You will, however, continue to receive the same level of care as you usually do. The information gathered at this clinic is reviewed virtually to allow us to monitor and treat more patients.

What happens next?

A Glaucoma Specialist will monitor and oversee your progress electronically, reviewing all measurements and images taken, in order to determine the stability of your condition. You will receive a letter from the Glaucoma Team a week or two after your appointment, which will inform you of the outcome, including your diagnosis, your current treatment and if/when your next review will be. A copy of this letter will also be sent to your GP.

What happens if there are changes in my test results?

The Glaucoma Virtual Clinic is only suitable for patients with a stable condition. If, after review by a Glaucoma Specialist, your results appear to have changed and your condition is no longer deemed stable, you will be offered a further appointment in a Consultant-led clinic at the Hospital, where treatment may be commenced or altered accordingly.

Who do I speak to if I have any concerns about my eye condition?

Please raise any questions with a member of the Glaucoma Team on the day of your appointment. If they cannot help, your query will be passed to a Glaucoma Specialist, who may need to arrange a further appointment for you if necessary.