

## Patient information

# **Technician Led Glaucoma Clinic**

Ophthalmology Department - Aintree Hospital

### **What is the technician-led glaucoma clinic?**

A service where highly-trained operators conduct certain tests to do with your eyes.

### **Which tests are done?**

- Sight test.
- Eye pressure check.
- Drainage angle assessment.
- Thickness measurement of front of eye (cornea).
- Photo of the nerve at the back of the eyes.
- Scan of the nerve at the back of the eye.
- Field of vision test.

### **Who attends this clinic?**

#### **Patients with:**

- Possible or known raised eye pressures.
- Possible or known glaucoma.

## **What are the tests for?**

### **To see if you have:**

High eye pressures,

**Or**

Have glaucoma,

**Or**

Have a risk of glaucoma and whether any of these needs treating.

### **Will I see a doctor today?**

No, but your hospital notes and all the test results will be reviewed by a member of the glaucoma team during what is called a virtual clinic.

### **Will I never see an eye doctor?**

Hopefully, most patients who use this service will not need to see an eye doctor for years.

If you are such a patient, it means that your condition is mild, easy to monitor or easy to treat.

This is a good thing.

Some patients will be discharged directly from the technician-led clinic if all tests are normal.

### **If everything is normal, why did my optician send me in?**

Tests done in the high street are not always as accurate as ours, but they are designed not to miss any problems.

So, some patients who are referred to the hospital are given the 'all clear'.

This is also a good thing. If we are in any doubt, we will keep you under review, once every 12-24 months.

## **Why does Aintree have a technician-led service?**

This service helps to reduce delays in follow-up intervals and cancellations.

## **I don't understand...**

A consultant sees up to 14 patients in a normal clinic setting. The consultant sees up to 30 patients in a virtual clinic.

So, it is better use of everyone's time and the staff are more productive.

## **Isn't this just cost-cutting?**

No. It is about working smarter, making our resources go further and dealing with an ever-increasing elderly population.

## **Any benefits to this system?**

Yes. As you do not have to wait to see the doctor, your visit is much quicker. Patients attending the technician-led service have all their tests done within 1 hour.

## **Is this service safe?**

Yes. With glaucoma and its associated conditions, all patients need monitoring. This is achieved with these tests and a virtual clinic consultation.

## **What if my tests look worse?**

Then you come back to the eye clinic to see an eye specialist.

## **So I might need two visits?**

Yes, but most patients seen by a technician will not require a follow-up visit for 6-12 months.

If you do return, this second visit will be relatively quick as no further testing will be needed.

### **I have other eye conditions that also require monitoring.**

Then you may not be suitable for this kind of clinic. Your doctor will decide. However, some conditions such as diabetes use a similar virtual clinic.

### **I have questions about my eye drops and/ or my condition...**

Please mention this to the technician. If they cannot help, your query will be passed on to the glaucoma team who will answer you by mail or arrange an appointment with a doctor.

### **What about my test results?**

A member of the glaucoma team will write to your family doctor with the all the relevant information from the tests and the virtual clinic.

If you have any queries please contact Mr. Dubois' secretary on 0151 529 0208.

**\*Please bring your eye drops to every appointment \***

### **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## Further information

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**Mr. Dubois' secretary**  
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