

Why have I been referred to the contact lens clinic?

You meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Myopia or hypermetropia of ≥ 10 dioptres.
- Anisometropia of ≥ 4 dioptres.
- Marked corneal irregularities for example corneal scarring, keratoconus and keratoplasty.
- Therapeutic (bandage) lens applications.
- Occlusive contact lenses.
- Albinism. Aniridia, coloboma.
- Facial disfigurements where the use of spectacle frames is not possible or difficult.

What will happen at the contact lens appointment?

We will discuss the different types of lenses available and which one will best suit you. You will be offered a trial if applicable. You will not leave this appointment with any lenses as they will need to be ordered.

How will I get my contact lenses?

We will order your lenses and you will be given an appointment for the Contact Lens Teach Session

Contact lens teach session

At this session you will be taught how to safely insert and remove your new contact lenses. You will be advised how to best care for your lenses. A wear schedule will also be explained.

How to prepare for the teaching session

- Do not wear eye make-up.
- Make sure your finger nails are clean and short.
- Make sure your hands are clean and free from dirt.

What happens next?

If your teaching session is successful you will leave with your new lenses. A follow up contact lens appointment will be sent for approximately 3-4 weeks. Following this you will then have a regular yearly follow up.

Payment for lenses

- There is a patient charge for clinically necessary contact lenses. Sighted lenses are chargeable at a statutory fee of **£58.15** per lens. This is reviewed annually.
- Plano powered lenses used as therapeutic bandages, occlusive and non-powered prosthetic contact lenses are exempt from charges.
- Hand painted and stock coloured prosthetic lens supply will be capped at four per year. The statutory fee will be charged for each lens thereafter.
- Help with the cost may be available under the NHS voucher scheme.

Exemptions:

- Children under 16 years of age
- Patients aged 16 or over, but under 19 years but still in full-time education.
- The patient or their partner get:
 - 1) Income support
 - 2) Income-based Jobseeker's allowance.
 - 3) Pension Credit **guarantee** credit
 - 4) Are named on a Tax Credit Exemption Certificate
 - 5) Income related employment and support allowance.
- They, or their partner, are named on a valid HC2 (full help) or HC3
- (Partial help) certificate.

There is no exemption from payment for spare lenses.

Failure to collect lenses

Any lenses that are not collected within 3 months of ordering will be returned to the supplier.

Contact Information.

If you have any queries or need advice, please ring the Department on 01803 656840.

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.



Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

PATIENT INFORMATION

Contact Lens Clinic

Ophthalmic Unit

Working with you, for you