

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Contact Lens Clinic

## Ophthalmic Unit

### **Why have I been referred to the contact lens clinic?**

You meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Myopia or hypermetropia of  $\geq 10$  dioptres.
- Anisometropia of  $\geq 4$  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 **£61.77** 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 654442.

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

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