

## Information for Patients

# Community Optometric Led Glaucoma Clinic (OLGA)

## What is the Community OLGA clinic?

OLGA clinic stands for **O**ptometric **L**ed **G**laucoma **A**ssessment clinic. In this clinic an optometrist with special training in glaucoma, sees all the patients.

The patients attending this clinic can have 'ocular hypertension' (high pressure in their eyes) or 'angle closure' (a narrowing of the drain which controls pressure inside the eye) or 'glaucoma'.

Glaucoma is a common eye condition where the optic nerve, which connects the eye to the brain, becomes damaged. It is usually caused by fluid building up in the eye, which increases pressure and can squeeze the nerve. Glaucoma can lead to loss of vision if it isn't diagnosed and treated early.

You have already been seen in the OLGA clinic at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. We are now expanding the service to provide clinics closer to your home in the community.

## What is the benefit of the Community OLGA clinic?

We feel that these clinics will be easier to get to and more convenient for some of our patients. You should not be asked to go to a clinic which is harder for you to get to.

## What will happen when I attend the Community OLGA clinic?

The optometrist will check with you what drops you are taking and whether you have had any problems since your last visit. The optometrist will then examine your eyes and check the pressure in your eyes in the usual way. You will have a field of vision test and

a picture taken of the nerve at the back of the eye, at the same visit. These are painless procedures. You should take all your drops as usual on the day you come to the OLGA clinic.

## **Will I have any other drops in my eyes when I come to the Community OLGA clinic?**

Yes. You will have anaesthetic drops put in before you have your eye pressure checked. You will also have drops put in to dilate your pupils so that the inside of your eyes can be examined, and a picture can be taken of the nerve at the back of the eye. These drops may blur your vision for approximately three hours and make your eyes more sensitive to bright lights. For this reason, we advise you **not to drive** to and from your OLGA clinic appointment. You may also wish to bring a pair of sunglasses to help reduce glare, particularly on a sunny day.

## **What should I bring to the Community OLGA clinic?**

Please bring your pairs of glasses, a list of all your medications and any remedies or other over the counter products that you take.

## **What happens if I have a problem when I attend the Community OLGA Clinic?**

You will remain under the care of your consultant even though you are being monitored in the Community OLGA Clinic. If you have a problem with your eye condition at your appointment, our optometrist may be able to help. If necessary, the optometrist will arrange for you to be seen by one of the doctors and may arrange for you to be seen in the consultant's clinic again.

**If you have any further questions, please discuss these with your optometrist.**