

Information for Patients

Acute Retinal Services

Welcome to the Acute Retinal Services. We hope this information leaflet answers many of the questions you might have but please contact us on (0161) 276 4565 or (0161) 701 2941 Monday–Friday 9.00am–5.00pm and ask for the Retinal Nurse if there is anything else you need to ask.

Waiting times

The Acute Retinal Services clinic is a highly specialised service, which accepts referrals from all over the country. The length of time you wait for treatment will depend on how many patients need to be treated and the seriousness of your condition. Because some patients need surgery on the same day that they are referred to the clinic, we cannot operate a first-come, first-served policy.

If you have been told that you will require surgery, as this is an emergency service, the surgery cannot be planned in advance.

Surgery patients

The order of the operating list is decided by the priority of need for surgery, which can change throughout the day. Everyone is referred as an ‘emergency’ – your surgeon will decide whether the operation needs to be done immediately, or whether it can wait.

Surgery is often performed as a day case procedure so you should be discharged home on the same day – but you will need to return the next morning for a review to check that everything is okay.

You may have been given instructions to starve (have nil by mouth) from a certain time, please continue to starve until you hear from us.

If no starving instructions have been given please continue to take your medication and diet as normal.

Operations can be done under local or general anaesthetic.

Local anaesthetic patients can eat and drink as normal and take regular medications as usual. You will generally be able to travel home alone.

Please bring all your regular medications with you to hospital.

Please note that you might not be able to see with the eye that has been operated on for the first day after your surgery. Your vision should return gradually after the first day, but this varies from patient to patient. We will discuss this with you during your visit.

NB: If you have been asked to have nothing to eat or drink this means no fluids even water, chewing gums or any food.

Thank you