

Information for Patients

Your Stand Magnifier

Use of your magnifier

It is important that the magnifier stays flat on the page at all times. If your device has a light, ensure it is switched on whilst using. Try using the magnifier with and without your glasses then stick with whatever feels best.

Helpful hints for using your magnifier

- **Do not be discouraged if reading seems difficult at first.** Start to use the magnifier by practising for a few minutes, several times a day. You cannot harm or weaken your eyes by using the magnifier; use it as much as you want to.
- Hold your reading material in a tilted/vertical position to avoid strain caused by leaning over. Try resting the book or paper on a reading stand or clipboard. It might be easiest to fold newspapers into quarters.
- So as not to lose your place when you reach the end of a line, either follow back along the line you have just read, before moving down to the next one or keep your finger on the left edge of the page next to the line you are reading.
- At first, it might be necessary to keep the eye steady by looking at each individual letter of a word, moving from one letter to the next in order to build up the whole word.

- Covering one eye might allow you to read more easily by helping your best eye to concentrate on the print. You could use a patch or a tissue over your glasses lens.
- If your magnifier is not illuminated, good lighting will help to make reading easier. A ceiling lamp (even if it is bright) is not sufficient. A desk lamp ideally with LED bulbs should be positioned so that the light falls directly onto the page of print and is not shining into your eyes.

If your device has a light in it (illuminated) and seems dimmer than usual, try changing the batteries. If that does not work or you are unsure how to do this please contact the department.

If your device stops working you may need to come in to the clinic, please call for advice first.

For further advice you can call **(0161) 276 5535** please leave a message and a member of staff will get back to you, or e-mail low.vision@mft.nhs.uk

Stand magnifier – stands on page

