

Information for Patients

Nurse Led Minor Operations Theatre List

You have been referred to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital Nurse led minor operations theatre list. This is a service whereby minor surgery and procedures are undertaken within the theatre department by an advanced nurse practitioner.

The nurse undertaking the procedure has been specifically trained and assessed to undertake these procedures by ophthalmic (eye) doctors and deemed competent.

You will be expected to attend an initial assessment appointment and if you require surgery a secondary date will be organised to undertake the procedure in the theatre.

What will happen when I attend?

You will be invited to attend the outpatients department which is located on the ground floor of Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. You will be assessed by the advanced nurse practitioner who will discuss your specific requirements and answer any questions you might have.

If you require surgery the nurse will explain the most appropriate options. This could include no intervention at all, a short course of eye ointments/drops or possibly a surgical procedure.

However, whatever the potential course of treatment, this will be explained to you prior to any intervention, and if it does involve surgery you will be required to provide written consent before any surgical treatment is started.

The procedure and potential risks associated with the surgery will also be explained. Your lesion (or other related problem) could require a detailed examination which might include the need for clinical photographs to be taken. If this is the case the nurse will explain the reasons why.

It is important to emphasise that you will be given a choice regarding your treatment requirements, and this can include a second opinion from a doctor, if you wish.

Remember, there will be no clinical intervention unless you consent to it.

It might also be necessary to refer you to an ophthalmologist for a further opinion.

During your consultation with the specialist nurse you will:

- Have the lesion examined – this could include the use of a microscope (known as a slit lamp).
- Be asked questions about the underlying problem.
- Be asked about your general medical health and any other operations you might have had.
- Be asked about any medications you take.
- Be asked if you have any allergies.
- If it is appropriate, you will be asked if there is any likelihood of you being pregnant.
- Be expected to sign a consent form if a procedure is required and you have been made aware of the treatment options.

It is important to stress that your surgery will more than likely be undertaken on a separate day which will be arranged with you.

Is there anything I need to bring or do prior to the consultation?

It is very useful if you can bring any information that will provide further insight to the consultation. It is a good idea to bring any medications with you or an up to date list of your medications.

You are allowed to eat and drink even before your procedure (light meals preferably), and if you take medications you should take all your usual tablets as prescribed, prior to any procedure.

What if I am unsure about the course of treatment?

It is important to emphasise that you have to be assured by the course of treatment the advanced nurse practitioner is prescribing and if at any point you would prefer the opinion of a doctor then please do not hesitate to ask for further referral to one of the eye doctors. This will not offend the nurse who will be more than willing to accommodate this request. It is important to understand, however, that this might not be on the same day and that you could be required to return to the outpatients department on another occasion for a second opinion.

What happens during surgery?

Most procedures are undertaken in the theatre and will be performed under a local anaesthetic. That means that you will be fully awake throughout the procedure. Most procedures take less than 15 minutes to perform. On occasion, and depending on the nature of the procedure, it might be necessary to use stitches. Following surgery it is sometimes necessary to apply an eye pad which usually stays in place for two hours.

What happens after surgery?

Following the procedure you will return to the Day Case Unit. You will stay here until the team are satisfied that you are ready to be discharged, this is usually within 30 minutes.

The Day Case nursing team will provide you with post-operative information including: wound hygiene, ointment instillation and general dos and don'ts.

If at all possible we recommend that you do not drive after the consultation as, if you have had treatment or surgery your vision will be temporarily impaired and you might be required to wear an eye pad.