

Acute Primary Care Ophthalmology Service

Patients may be referred by their GP, optician or can self refer to the APCOS service. APCOS is a free NHS service available to all patients registered with a West Kent GP.

The service provides patients experiencing recently occurring medical eye conditions with appropriate treatment closer to home.

The service is provided by local specialist independent prescribing optometrists and a GP with the specialist knowledge and skills to carry out this work locally.

The APCOS service is designed for recently occurring symptoms relating to your eyes or vision:

- Sudden and recent reduction in vision in one or both eyes
- Red eye(s) or eyelids
- Pain and/or discomfort in the eyes
- Recent onset or sudden increase in flashes and/or floaters in one of both eyes
- Mild trauma, for example a scratch to the outer surface of the eye or eyelid
- Suspected foreign body in the eye
- Recent onset of double vision
- Significant recent discharge from or watering of the eye.

Which eye conditions are not treated under APCOS?

If you have any of the following conditions you must go directly to your nearest hospital emergency department:

- Sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes
- Considerable pain
- Significant trauma, such as a penetrating injury
- Chemical injury or burn
- Problems arising from recent eye surgery.

Similarly, if you have any condition that is being monitored by the hospital eye service or your GP, such as cataracts, glaucoma or dry eye, this will not be covered under APCOS. Remember, you may not be able to drive immediately after the eye examination.

What happens when I see the optometrist or specialist GP?

The optometrist will discuss your eye history, any symptoms you may be experiencing and any related medical history. You will receive an eye assessment relevant to your symptoms.

Please take a list of all the current medications and your up-to-date glasses with you to the appointment.

As a result of the consultation you may be:

- Given appropriate treatment by the optometrist, this may include a follow-up appointment
- Referred to your GP for appropriate treatment if your eye condition is related to your general health
- Referred directly to the hospital eye service if your eye condition is more serious.

Following your appointment the optometrist will notify your GP about the outcome of your consultation in order to ensure your medical records are updated.



Please note: this service does not replace the routine eye examination, eye tests or prescription for glasses. A sight test will not be performed as part of the assessment or treatment and you will not be issued with a prescription for glasses. If the optometrist feels that this is important they will discuss it with you and advise a separate appointment for this to happen. If you normally pay for an eye test you will still be asked to do so.

Approved optometrists and specialist GP

Deacon Harle -

Osborne Harle Optometrists

1-3 Martin Hardie Way, Tonbridge,
Kent, TN10 4AE.

Tel: 01732 368678

Dr Stuart Williams -

Staplehurst Health Centre

Offens Drive, Staplehurst,
Kent, TN12 0LB.

Tel: 01580 891220 /01580 895829

John Gurney -

Kent Eye Care Independent Specialist Optometrists and Opticians

786 London Road, Larkfield,
Aylesford, Kent, ME20 6BE.

Tel: 01732 873378

Niall O’Kane -

Niall O’Kane Optometrists

78-80 High Street, Strood,
Rochester, Kent, ME2 4AR.

Tel: 01634 290178

Chirag Patel -

Eye 2 Eye Opticians

Unit 8, Mid Kent Shopping Centre
Castle Road, Allington,
Maidstone, Kent, ME16 0PU.

Tel: 01622 672563

Please be aware that your normal opticians may not offer this service. Look out for the poster displayed in the opticians window.

Appointments are offered during normal working hours and you will usually be seen within 36 hours. You should contact your local participating opticians by telephoning the number given to book an appointment.



NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group
www.westkentccg@nhs.uk

July 2014