

Ophthalmology – How to refer a patient

Currently we do not have a walk in service. All patients MUST be referred.

We aim to review patients in a timely manner following referral. We will also take into account preferences of the patient and the referring clinician.

Patients are now ideally referred by their optometrist via SCI Gateway. The ophthalmology department may contact the GP practice to obtain background medical history; there is a process for this. Optometrists have the capacity and equipment to assess patients with common ophthalmic complaints and are able to refer directly to hospital eye services. For non-emergency and non-urgent cases, patients can be asked to attend their local optometrist for further assessment and onward referral as required.

Eye Pavilion Edinburgh

There is a triage nurse from 08.30 – 16.30, Monday to Friday at the Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion. They can give advice as to the urgency of appointment required, offer reassurance or provide an appointment time for the acute referral clinic.

Emergency/urgent referrals must go through the triage nurse during the day. If the referral is an emergency and it is out with the times above please contact the on call ophthalmologist via switchboard.

Routine appointments e.g. squint/cataract referral can be sent via SCI gateway. Optometrists can send referrals to the patient's GP and ask them to forward via SCI gateway. Referrals via fax are discouraged.

Contact 0131 536 3751 (Eye Pavilion triage)

St John's Eye Clinic

At St John's there is a triage nurse from 9.00 – 17.00, Monday to Friday. On occasion they may advise being seen at the Eye Pavilion depending on the suspected diagnosis and availability of appointments e.g. suspected retinal detachments. For emergency referrals out with these times please contact the on call ophthalmologist via switchboard.

Contact 01506 524 286 (St John's Hospital Eye Clinic) or 01506 419 666 extension 3253 or 3169

For emergency/urgent referrals out of hours

There are 2 on call ophthalmology doctors – 1st on call (ST1-3) and 2nd on call (ST4-7). There is also a consultant on call. Switchboard will direct your call to the correct ophthalmologist.

Contact 0131 536 1000 (Switchboard at the Royal Infirmary, ask for on call ophthalmologist)