

## Eye drops for children's eye test

Optometry Department  
Tel: 01271 311714

### Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio tape or computer disk, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please telephone the PALS desk on 01271 314090.

### Referral to the optometrist or ophthalmologist

Following your child's appointment with the orthoptist, it was considered advisable to arrange another appointment to check if spectacles are required and/or to check the health of the eyes.

At this appointment the eyes will be examined by either the hospital optometrist (optician) or ophthalmologist (eye surgeon). In order for the examination to be carried out, it may be necessary to prepare the eyes using eye drops.

### The eye drops

Prior to the appointment, eye drops called cyclopentolate hydrochloride are put into both eyes. The drops take about 30 minutes to work and in the case of dark-coloured eyes, a second droplet may be required.

### What are the eye drops for?

The drops make the pupils larger and make examining the eye a lot easier.

Your child may notice that their vision becomes blurred and that they may not be able to focus, especially when looking at close objects. Sometimes, there is a temporary sensitivity to light. The blurring effect should wear off after six hours and the pupils usually return to a normal size within 24 hours but this might take longer with pale-coloured eyes.

### The test

If drops are used, the tests involve your child looking towards various lights. To determine whether spectacles are required, the child will be asked to look at a light through different trial spectacle lenses. Another type of light will be used with a magnifying lens to examine the health of the eye. Your child will not be expected to say which lenses are better or worse.

## Side effects of the drops

It is very rare to experience any problem with these drops. However, very occasionally a child may demonstrate an allergic reaction. This involves the child becoming hot and flushed, and possibly confused. These effects would occur soon after instilling the drops, do not normally last more than a few hours, and staff would be at hand to help.

## Further information

If you have any questions, please contact the Optometry Department on **01271 311714**.

### **PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

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