

What is Primary Eye-care Acute Referral Scheme (PEARS)?

Conditions that can be seen under the service include:

- Red eye or eyelids
- Dry eye, or gritty and uncomfortable eyes
- Irritation and inflammation of the eye
- Significant recent sticky discharge from the eye or watery eye
- Recently occurring flashes or floaters
- Ingrowing eyelashes
- Recent and sudden loss of vision
- Foreign body in the eye
- **Must have happened in the last four weeks**

Please note, this is not a sight test

Also, if you have a long-term eye problem that is already being monitored or treated by a health care professional, this will not be covered by this service.

Where should I go?

A list of optometry practices (opticians) offering this service in the local area can be found on the back of this leaflet. Appointments are available during normal working hours (including weekends). If an optician is unable to offer you an appointment they will be able to redirect you to an alternative opticians nearby.

Who is this service for?

If you are registered with a local GP you can use this free service. It is for people of all ages – adults and children. Children under 16 years must be accompanied at their appointment by an adult.

How do I book an appointment with the service?

To make an appointment, call one of the opticians on the back of this leaflet. You will be asked some questions about your symptoms in order to assess how quickly you need to be seen by the service, which will be within 24 hours in urgent cases and within a few days for routine appointments.

Please take your glasses and a list of your current medication with you to the appointment. The optometrist may put drops in your eyes to enlarge your pupils in order to get a better view inside your eyes. You should not drive until the effects of these drops have worn off, which may take a few hours.

If your condition is more serious, the optometrist will book you an urgent appointment at a hospital eye clinic. If you need a routine appointment with a hospital, the optometrist will organise this for you.

You may also be advised to make an appointment with your GP if your eye condition is related to your general health.

