

Who can I be referred to for diagnosis for wet age-related macular degeneration?

Hospital/Community Clinic	Location
Epsom and St Helier University Hospital NHS Trust www.epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk Tel No: 020 8296 3800	Epsom General Hospital Dorking Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 7EG
	St Helier Hospital and Queen Mary's Hospital Wrythe Lane, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 1AA
Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust www.kingstonhospital.nhs.uk Tel No: 020 8934 6404	Kingston Hospital Galsworthy Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 7QB
Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk Tel No: 01784 884262 (Ashford) Tel No: 01932 722754 (St Peters)	Ashford Hospital London Road, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3AA
	St Peter's Hospital Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey, KT15 0PZ
Royal Surrey County NHS Foundation Trust www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk Tel No: 01483 571122 ext. 4648	Royal Surrey Hospital Egerton Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7XX
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk Tel No: 01737 768 511 ext. 1761	East Surrey Hospital Redhill, Surrey, RH1 5RH
	Horsham Hospital Hurst Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2DR

Wet Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD)



Following your appointment with a High Street optician, you have been referred for assessment because there is a possibility you may have Wet Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD).

What is Wet Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD)?

- Wet AMD is an eye condition that causes problems with your central vision, but does not lead to total loss of sight and is not painful.
- Wet AMD affects the vision you use when you are looking directly at something, for example when you're reading or watching television. It may make your central vision distorted or blurry and, over a period of time, it may cause a blank patch in the centre of your vision.
- Wet AMD can develop very quickly, causing serious changes to your central vision in a short period of time.
- Treatment usually needs to be given quickly before the new blood vessels do too much damage to your macula. If the blood vessels are left to grow the scarring and sight loss it causes can be permanent.
- Wet AMD doesn't affect your peripheral vision so does not lead to total blindness.

You should have received an information booklet from your optometrist. This can also be found online here:

<http://www.rcophth.ac.uk/patients/information-booklets/>



Choosing your hospital

Your High Street optician will tell you which hospitals or community clinics you can go to (see the list of Surrey hospitals and clinics in this leaflet) for treatment.

If you have a holiday planned in the next few weeks or you will be leaving the area for any other reason, please let your optician know, otherwise it could delay your appointment.

What should I expect when I go to my community or hospital appointment?

Please allow a couple of hours for this appointment. During the appointment you may have eye drops put into your eye to enlarge your pupils so we can see into your eye better. The drops will make you sensitive to bright light and may blur your vision temporarily, so you should not drive for several hours.

At this visit you will be advised about treatment and what to do afterwards.

Please take your glasses (if you wear them) and a list of your medication to the appointment.

When can I expect to receive an appointment?

If you have been referred to see a specialist for suspected wet AMD, this is considered an urgent referral. Therefore, you should expect to see a specialist within a maximum of two weeks from the date that the High Street optician has sent the referral.

Please note: If you do not hear from your preferred hospital with an appointment within two weeks, please contact the hospital directly to find out when you can expect an appointment.

Who do I contact if I need some advice or want to share my experience?

You can get help and advice from our Patient Experience Team. The team offers confidential advice, support and information on health issues to patients, their families and their carers. Our Patient Experience team can be contacted on 01372 201685 or sdccg.feedback@surreydownsccg.nhs.net