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**Information for Patients**

**Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS)**

**What is MECS?**

MECS is an NHS funded service available to all patients registered with a Worcestershire GP. The service provides patients experiencing recently occurring medical eye conditions with appropriate treatment closer to home.

The service is provided by local optometrists at approved opticians with the specialist knowledge and skills to carry out this work.

**Which medical eye conditions can be treated by MECS?**

**The service is designed for recently occurring medical eye conditions such as:**

* Reduction in vision in one or both eyes
* Red eye(s)
* Pain and/or discomfort in the eyes, around the eye area or temples
* Recent onset or sudden increase in flashing lights and/or floaters in one or both eyes
* Suspected foreign body in the eye

If you are unsure whether your symptoms qualify, please contact one of the approved opticians (list enclosed with this leaflet) who can advise you.

**How do I access MECS?**

A list of approved opticians is enclosed with this leaflet. Please be aware that your normal optometrist may have chosen not to offer this service.

You can contact any of these approved opticians directly (self-refer) to make an appointment and ask to be seen under MECS. Alternatively, if you make an appointment to see your GP, he or she may refer you to the optometrist.

Appointments are available during normal working hours.

**What happens when I see the Optometrist?**

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 current medications and your 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.

**Additional Information:**

* **You may not be able to drive immediately after your MECS examination**
* This service does not replace your routine eye examination. A sight test will not be provided as part of the assessment or treatment and you will not be issued with a prescription for glasses.
* **If you have any of the following conditions you must go directly to A&E::**
	+ Sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes
	+ Considerable eye pain
	+ Significant trauma, such as a penetrating injury or lacerations to the eye(s) or lid(s)
	+ Chemical eye injury or burns
	+ Problems arising from recent surgery

If you have an eye condition which is being monitored by your optometrist or hospital eye service (such as cataracts, glaucoma or dry eye) this will not be covered by MECS.

**List of Opticians Providing MECS:**

