

## Patient information factsheet

# Visual field test

We have given you this factsheet because you have an appointment for a visual field test. It explains what a visual field test is, what the test involves and how to prepare for your appointment. We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to a member of our team.

### What is a visual field test?

A visual field test charts how wide an area you can see and how sensitive your vision is within this area.

If your eyesight is variable (constantly changing), or you are having treatment, then serial testing over a period of time may be able to monitor your progress.

The test may be similar to one of the tests you may have had at your opticians, but it is not designed to see whether you need glasses. The visual field test assesses whether your vision is being affected by the function of your eye, nerves and brain, rather than how well your eyes focus.

### Attending your appointment

Please ensure you arrive on time and allow at least half an hour for the test. If you arrive late, it may be necessary to rebook your appointment.

If you wear glasses, it is important that you bring them with you as this could affect the final result. You should bring both reading and distance glasses if you have them. Basic lenses are also available in the test room and the person performing your test may use one of these to improve your responses if appropriate.

### During the test

The visual field test will be performed by an ophthalmic specialist.

The ophthalmic specialist will ask you to read some letters or numbers from an eye chart about six metres away. They will then place a patch over one of your eyes and turn the light off in the room. They will then ask you to look forward and press a buzzer when you see a spot of light. The spot of light will appear randomly from many different angles and will be altered in size and brilliance to get a detailed map of your vision.

The ophthalmic specialist will then repeat this test with your other eye.

The test is not designed to assess whether or not your vision is good enough to drive. You must consult your doctor or optician about this.

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## After the test

The ophthalmic specialist will not be able to give you your results immediately after the test. The results will be sent to the consultant who referred you for the test.

## Contact us

Please feel free to contact the department if there is any information you do not understand. If your appointment is not convenient, please contact us as soon as possible to rearrange it.

## Clinical neurophysiology department

Wessex Neurological Centre  
B level  
Southampton General Hospital  
Tremona Road  
Southampton  
SO16 6YD

Telephone: **023 8120 6785** (between 8am and 4.30pm, or please leave a message on the answer machine)

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